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M E M O I R S

OF THE

L I F E

OF

DAVID GARRICK, Esq.

INTERSPERSED WITH

CHARACTERS AND ANECDOTES

OF

HIS THEATRICAL CONTEMPORARIES.

THE WHOLE FORMING

A HISTORY OF THE STAGE,

WHICH INCLUDES

A Period of THIRTY-SIX YEARS.

By THOMAS DAVIES.

Quem populus Romanus meliorem virum quam
histrionem esse arbitratur, qui ita dignissimus est scena propter
artificium, ut dignissimus sit curia propter abstinentiam.

Cicero pro Q. Roscio Comædo.

V O L. II.

L O N D O N :

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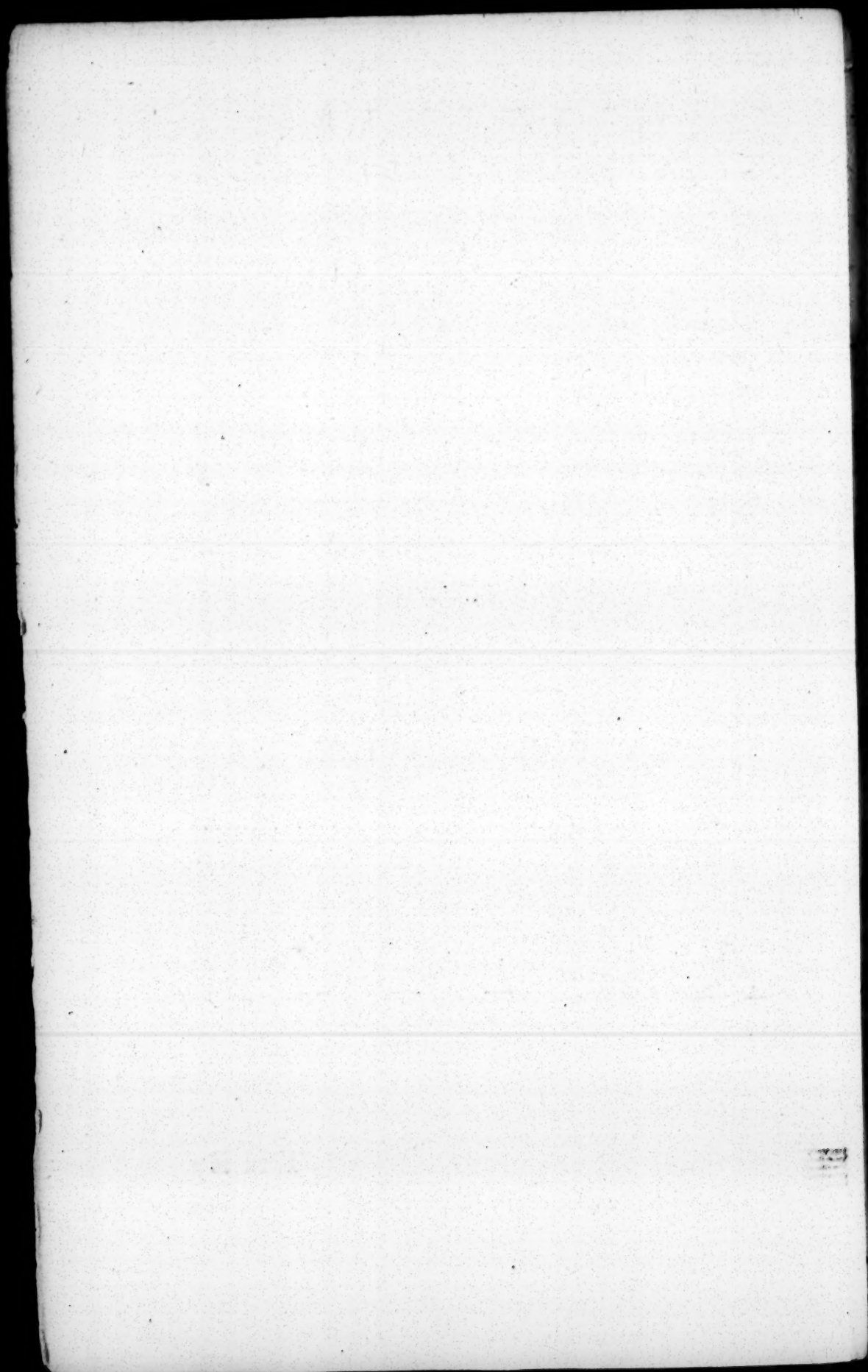
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L I F E
O F
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CHAP. XXX.

Account of the riot occasioned by the advanced prices to the Two Gentlemen of Verona, and the tragedy of Elvira---Account of the chief agent.---Hero of the Fribbleriad, &c.

A Riot in a playhouse is very different from a tumult in the street; for the latter is a sudden fray arising from ignorance or mistake, generally soon ended, and often without any mischief done to any body; whereas the former is almost always the

result of a conspiracy, proceeding from private resentment, and in its consequences pernicious to the object against whom it is levelled.

In January 1763, a certain gentleman and his confederates circulated a printed advertisement throughout all the coffee-houses, taverns, and other public houses in the neighbourhood of Covent-garden and Drury-lane; wherein they set forth the great injustice of the managers of the play-houses, in presuming to exact the full prices on the night of a revived play; whereas they conceived that they had no reasonable claim to these charges from the beginning to the end of a night's entertainment, except on the addition of a pantomime. They declared, with seeming moderation, at the same time, that their demand of redress should be urged with decency and temper, and an explanation of the managers conduct required in a manner becoming gentlemen.

The confederates chose a very odd, or rather improper, time to enforce the doctrine
of

of submission to their authority, on the benefit night of the writer, who had altered the play of Shakespeare's Two Gentlemen of Verona, at a time when the full charges were never disputed.

A Mr. Fitz-----k, who is since dead, appeared the avowed ringleader of these reformers, who were determined to disturb the audience, and deprive them of their right to enjoy the representation of a play unmolested.

This gentleman harangued the spectators from the boxes, and set forth, in very warm and opprobrious language, the impositions of the managers; and, with much vehemence, pleaded the right of the audience to fix the price of their bill of fare. When Mr. Garrick came forward to address the house, he was received with noise and uproar, and treated with the utmost contempt by the orator and his friends. He was not permitted to shew the progressive accumulation of theatrical expences, the nightly charge of which, from the year 1702 to 1760, had been raised from 34l. to above

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gol. They would not suffer him to speak one word in defence of himself and his partner. It had been an invariable custom with Booth, Wilkes, and Cibber, to demand full prices on the acting of a new play which had cost the madditional expence in decoration. I am informed too, that the present managers of Drury-lane and Covent-garden, from the prodigious increase of expenditure on various occasions, are obliged to charge their actors, for a benefit play, 100l.

But this tribune of the people, Mr. Fitz-----k, would hear no apology, would listen to no remonstrances in favour of the patentees; they must not be allowed a night's time, no, not an hour, to deliberate on a matter of so much consequence to themselves and all dramatic writers, but must yield unconditional submission to a peremptory order of this peremptory gentleman and his associates, or the house must be torn to pieces, as a punishment for non-compliance.

The consequence of not instantly giving up the privileges of authors to the superior claims

claims of dumb shew, was the tearing up the benches, breaking the lustres and girandoles, and committing every act of violence to which they were prompted by their ungovernable rage and malice. The play was given up, and the money returned.

The next night a new tragedy, called *Elvira*, written by Mr. Mallet, was acted at Drury-lane. The rioters, headed by their spokesman, enforced their former demand in the same violent and laconic manner. When Mr. Garrick appeared, they cried out with one voice, "Will you, or will you not, give admittance for half price, after the third act of a play, except during the first winter a pantomime is performed?" The manager, who had learnt the lesson of obedience by the losses which he had sustained the preceding evening, replied in the affirmative. But however, peace was not to be restored till some of the players had made an amende honorable, for daring to espouse the cause of their master. Mr. Moody was called upon to apologize for the offence he had given, in

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stopping a madman's hand who was going to set fire to the playhouse. He, imagining that he should bring the audience into good humour by a laughable absurdity, in the tone and language of a low-bred Irishman, said, He was very sorry that he had displeased them by saving their lives in putting out the fire. This speech was so ill taken, that it rather enflamed than cooled their rage; and they loudly and vehemently insisted that he should go down on his knees, and ask their pardon. Moody was so far from complying with this positive command, that he had the courage absolutely to refuse, saying, "I will not, "by G--." When he came off the stage, Mr. Garrick was so pleased with his behaviour, that he received him with open arms, and assured him, that whilst he was master of a guinea, he should be paid his income; but that, if he had been so mean as to submit to the required abasement, he never would have forgiven him.

The tumult was so great on Moody's refusing to comply with the demand of the audience,

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audience, that, to appease their wrath, Mr. Garrick promised he should not appear on the stage again during the time he was under their displeasure.

Mr. Moody's situation was by no means eligible; he was reduced to the necessity of either taking leave of the capital, and joining the itinerant actors in the country, or of depending upon the generosity of the manager. He could expect no mercy from the gentlemen who had enjoined so severe a penance for an act of duty: he was therefore determined, after weighing all consequences, to seek redress from the original plotter of all the mischief, Mr. Fitz-----k himself.

He waited upon him at his chambers in the Temple. The interview was extraordinary, and part of it will perhaps appear most to advantage in dialogue. That gentleman seemed somewhat surprised when Moody addressed him in these words, "I suppose, Sir, you know me."

Fitz. Very well, Sir; and how came I by the honour of this visit?

B 4

Moody.

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Moody. How dare you ask me that question, when you know what passed at Drury-lane last night; where I was called upon by you to dishonour myself, by asking pardon of the audience upon my knees?

Fitz. No, Sir, I was not the person who spoke to you.

Moody. Sir, you did; I saw you, and heard you. And what crime had I committed, to be obliged to stoop to such an ignominious submission? I had prevented a wretch from setting fire to the playhouse, and had espoused the cause of a gentleman in whose service I had enlisted.

Fitz. I do not understand being treated in this manner in my own house.

Moody. Sir, I will attend you where you please; for be assured, I will not leave you till you have satisfied me one way or other.

Mr. Fitz-----k perceiving that Moody was determined to exact satisfaction, asked him what reparation he wished to have. Moody said, he expected that he would sign his name to a paper, and repair the injury, by acknowledging that he had acted
towards

towards him in a most unjust and improper manner; at the same time that he would request his friends not to insist on the penance prescribed to Mr. Moody, but to receive him to favour on his making any reasonable excuse.

Mr. Fitz-----k now assumed the man; he declared that no power on earth should prevail on him to sign such a writing. Mr. Moody then renewed his positive resolution to right himself. After some farther altercation, Mr. Fitz-----k proposed to serve Mr. Moody in another way, and perhaps more effectually than the signing of any instrument whatsoever. "I know Mr. Moody (said Mr. Fitz-----k) goes to the Jamaica coffee-house; I will meet him there to-morrow morning, and fix upon a proper method to accommodate matters to his entire satisfaction."

Mr. Fitz----k did not meet Mr. Moody. However, he sent a gentleman to him with whom he was well acquainted, and one very willing and able to bring about a reconciliation between the audience and the actor.

actor. Mr. Fitz-----k now began to view his conduct with impartial eyes, and to make some amends for his past outrageous conduct to the actor and manager; he wrote a letter to Mr. Garrick in a strain very condescending, and to a proud man sufficiently humiliating. The chief purpose of his epistle was to acquaint him, that whenever he thought proper to introduce Mr. Moody to the audience, he and all his friends would attend, and contribute to his being reinstated in the favour of the public.

Having closed this article of Fitz-----k's particular behaviour to Mr. Moody, I would beg leave to observe, that degrading the actor must tend to lessen the pleasure of the spectator. What just notions of propriety of behaviour, what knowledge of elegance in manners, or representation of what is grand or graceful, humourous or gay, can an audience expect from a wretch who is driven to a degree of meanness unworthy of a man? I would by no means encourage insolence in the player, but repress it immediately, and exact such reparation as it becomes

becomes the actor to give, and a humane, as well as polite assembly, to receive.

Dufresne, an excellent French actor, much celebrated for his performance in all the heroic lovers of Voltaire's tragedies, was interrupted in a speech by a gentleman in the pit, who told him he spoke *too low*; "And you, Sir," said the actor, "*too loud*." The audience immediately took fire; the house was in a tumult, and resented the insolence of the actor, who had presumed to talk to a gentleman so rudely. The police interposed, and the next evening Dufresne was commanded to acknowledge his fault in very submissive terms. The actor came forward to make his acknowledgment, and the audience were attentive to what he was about to say. Dufresne began in this manner, "Gentlemen, till now I never felt the meanness of my condition"---This exordium struck the pit so forcibly, that they would not permit him to proceed, but dismissed him with loud and reiterated plaudits. They reflected, that notwithstanding Dufresne had rather added to his former affront by what
he

he had said, that they did not wish to make him too sensible of the inferior rank he held in life.

Though Mr. Fitz-----k's plan of reformation, as he called it, was principally levelled at Mr. Garrick, yet, as he was now engaged in a public cause, he thought it would appear very partial if he did not oblige Mr. Beard, the manager of Covent-garden, to submit to the same regulations he had imposed on Mr. Garrick. To this end he proceeded, with his associates, the night following, from the conquest of Drury-lane to undertake that of Covent-garden. He there delivered an harangue similar to his oration at Drury-lane, and insisted on the manager's compliance. The opera of Artaxerxes was to be acted that night. Mr. Beard answered the speech of the orator with great firmness, and with a strong appearance of reason: he more particularly observed, that operas had never been exhibited at such small prices any where as at his theatre; that the nightly expences were prodigiously increased since the days of former managers; and that the public ought

ought not to grudge the full charge when no expence in actors, cloaths, scenes, music, and every decoration of the stage, had been spared, for their entertainment. All this, and much more, was urged in vain by the manager. But no argument or reason could have any effect upon these public-spirited gentlemen; they wondered at Mr. Beard's confidence in opposing that authority to which Mr. Garrick had submitted; they insisted peremptorily on a positive answer to their demand, which was, Whether he would comply with their regulation of prices, or not? This being answered in the negative, they then proceeded to their most powerful argument, force, and demolished the playhouse in such a manner, that the carpenters could not repair the damages sustained in the scenery, and other parts of the theatre, in less than four or five days. Mr. Beard being determined to maintain and defend his property by legal methods, took care to fix upon some of the rioters, and, with the help of a chief justice's warrant, brought two or three of them before
lord

lord Mansfield. Mr. Fitz-----k, alarmed at the manager's resolution, thought proper to attend the judge, where the usual paleness of his cheek was rendered perfectly of a livid colour by the dreadful rebuke of lord Mansfield, who told him solemnly, that if a life was lost in this tumultuous contest, he would be answerable for it with his own.

Notwithstanding this severe check, the tribune and his confederates were determined to finish what they had begun, and force the manager to a compliance. However, they changed their mode of attack, sensible that force might be attended with bad consequences, and, perhaps, the chief justice's sentence be completed in their own persons, by proceeding to destroy the benches, and other like acts of violence. As soon as the playhouse was refitted, they attended as before, but contented themselves with laughing, hissing, and such like innocent practices, to interrupt the play, till the manager should comply with their arbitrary decrees. Mr. Beard finding it impossible

impossible to keep open the doors of the theatre to any purpose without submitting to these dictators, at last complied, and peace was restored.

Thus ended this formidable riot. Whatever the public gained by the victory of Mr. Fitz-----k and his friends, in the wonderful privilege of seeing two acts of a play at half price, and the exalting of pantomime to a rank superior to tragedy and comedy, so much boasted of by the conspirators, who called themselves the town; I can tell them honestly, they owed these great emoluments to the private resentment of a splenetic man, not to public spirit or patriotic principle. And, as it will serve to shew the false pretences, as well as mean passions of men, who, to gratify their ill-nature and malice, make an ostentatious parade of deep concern for the interests of others, I will give a short narrative of the quarrel which gave rise to this theatrical insurrection.

Mr. Fitz-----k was a gentleman who lived upon a moderate income left him by his father. His education had given him a
taste

taste for the belles lettres, more especially for dramatical writings. He was a frequenter of the coffee-houses about Covent-garden, especially the Bedford.

This gentleman being a constant attendant at the theatre, and esteemed to be no mean judge of the merit of authors and actors, he was introduced to Mr. Garrick, and, I believe, complimented with the freedom of his playhouse. By his gentle and insinuating address, he so far gained Mr. Garrick's favour and regard, that, from an acquaintance, he ranked him amongst the number of his friends.

The criticisms which Mr. Fitz-----k first published in the news-papers were rather of the liberal sort, favourable to the manager, and kind to the actor. A little success, owing to the flattering and exuberant applauses of his friends, inspired him with an immoderate share of conceit and vanity. He who had been modest and doubtful before, became all of a sudden confident and decisive. The precise time when this critic began to conceive his observations

observations of such intrinsic value, as to think himself a better judge of acting than Roscius himself, and announced his superior importance to the public, I do not know ; but I remember well the critical time which he seized upon for an open rupture with Mr. Garrick, was at a meeting of a respectable society called the Shakespeare Club, which had been chiefly brought together by Mr. Garrick and his most intimate friends, and of which also Mr. Fitz-----k had been chosen a member. What the business was of this club, more than drinking toasts to the immortal remembrance of the great dramatic writer, and refreshing their minds with the recital of his various excellences, I cannot recollect ; but it happened that, at a meeting of this assembly, when Mr. Garrick was absent, it was proposed by some of the members to contrive some peculiar marks of honour from their society to Shakespeare, a gentleman moved, that as Mr. Garrick, the great admirer and best speaking commentator of the poet, was absent, all business of that kind should be postponed to another time.

Mr. Fitz-----k now laid hold of this incident to give vent to the malevolence of his temper, which he had hitherto smothered, or at least disguised. He wondered any gentleman should propose deferring the business of the club on account of a member's absence, who was certainly the most insignificant person that belonged to their society.

This unexpected declaration of ill-will to a man who had never given the smallest provocation for such inimical behaviour, surprised every body present.

Mr. Garrick called upon Mr. Fitz-----k for an explanation, but could obtain none : he would neither recede, by making an apology for a rash or inadvertent expression, which would have been accepted; nor justify his conduct, by supporting what he had said in a manner becoming the man who had given just cause of offence. Common friends to Mr. Fitz-----k and Mr. Garrick proposed and appointed several meetings, but in vain. Whether the aggressor thought a player was neither a creature deserving

deserving a reasonable concession or honourable resentment, I cannot pretend to decide; but his enmity to Mr. Garrick was neither removed by eclclaircissement, nor maintained by an act of courage.

His censures of Mr. Garrick's manner of acting from this time became more frequent, severe, and acrimonious. Like the foolish rhetorician who presumed to pronounce lectures on the art of war before Hannibal, this daring critic found fault with the emphasis and action of our English Roscius. He wrote letters in a paper called the Craftsman, signed X. Y. Z. In these he endeavoured to undeceive the public in their opinion of their favourite actor, and to prove that he was a theatrical impostor. Not content with pouring forth these effusions of a weak brain and malicious mind in a weekly paper, he collected them together, and published them in a shilling pamphlet, intitled, *An Inquiry into the real Merit of a certain popular Performer, in a Series of Letters, with an Introduction, to David Garrick, Esq.*

But however favourably he and his admirers might judge of this motley tiffue of rancour and impertinence, the public in general received these criticisms with negligence and contempt. The Reviewers indeed, by pointing out their insignificancy, kept them alive for a day, and then consigned them to oblivion.

Against the attacks of a man so weak, so vain, and so malicious, Mr. Garrick judged that ridicule would be his surest guard, and most offensive weapon. A poem was published called the Fribbleriad, which was universally and justly attributed to Mr. Garrick. With much humour, great vivacity, pleasantry and wit, he played with the tremendous plot of Fizgigg, the hero of the poem, and the members of his contemptible club. He characterizes them as things of a peculiar species, who met together in assembly at Hampstead, to plot the downfall of Garrick, their great enemy, who had most abominably exposed them in his farce of *Miss in her Teens*. The author employs colours of ridicule, sufficiently

ciently glaring to excite laughter, when he describes the soft insignificance, consequential unimportance, and harmless conspiracies of these dainty nothings. The poem is really curious, and now out of print, or at least not to be purchased singly.* A few quotations from it will, I believe, be diverting to the reader. The poet thus invokes his muse:

Say, gossip muse, who lov'st to prattle,
And fill the town with tittle tattle;
To tell a secret such a bliss is,
Say for what cause these master misses
To Garrick such a hatred bore,
That long they wish'd to make him fore?
To bind the monster hand and foot,
Like Gulliver in Lilliput;
With birchin twigs to flea his skin,
And each to stick him with a pin?
Are things so delicate so fell!
Can cherubims be imps of hell?
Tell us how spite a scheme begot,
Who laid the eggs, who hatch'd the plot.

* Lately reprinted in a very entertaining miscellany, published in 2 vols. by Mr. Dilly.

O sing in namby pamby feet,
 Like to the subject, tripping neat;
 Snatch ev'ry grace that fancy reaches;
 Relate their passions, plottings, speeches:
 You, when their Pan Fribblerium sat,
 Saw them conven'd, and heard their chat;
 Saw all their wriggling, fuming, fretting,
 Their nodding, frisking, and curvetting;
 Each minute saw their rage grow stronger,
 Till the dear things could hold no longer;
 But out burst forth the dreadful vow
 TO DO A DEED!—But when, and how?
 And where? O muse, thy lyre new-string,
 The How, the When, the Where, to sing.
 Say in what sign the sun had enter'd
 When these sweet souls on plotting ventur'd—
 'Twas when the balmy breath of May
 Makes tender lambkins sport and play;
 When tenderer fribbles walk, and dare
 To gather nosegays in the air.

There is a place upon a hill,
 Where cits of pleasure take their fill;
 Where hautboys scream, and fiddles squeak,
 To sweat the *ditto* once a week:

Where

Where joy of late unmix'd with noise
 Of romping girls and drunken boys ;
 Where Decency, sweet maid, appear'd,
 And in her hand brought Johnny Beard.
 'Twas here (for public rooms are free)
 They met to plot and drink their tea.
 Each on a fatten stool was seated,
 Which, nicely quilted, curtain'd, pleated,
 Did all their various skill display ;
 Each work'd his own, to grace the day.
 Above the rest, and set apart,
 A chair was plac'd, where curious art,
 With lace and fringe, to honour meant
 Him they should chuse their president.

After some debate, one of the fribble
 heroes, Sir Cock-a-Doodle, proposes to
 chuse Fizgigg for their chairman, whom
 he declares to be the most proper person to
 carry on the war with vigour against the
 common enemy. Fizgigg is thus described :

At which one larger than the rest,
 With visage sleek, and swelling chest,
 With stretch'd-out fingers, and a thumb
 Stuck to his hips, and jutting bum,
 Rose up——

Captain Pattypan proposes to destroy
Garrick by the sword.

—————At length began
The valiant Captain Pattypan :
With kimbow'd arm, and tossing head,
He bridled up—Wear I this red ?
Shall blood be nam'd, and I be dumb ?
For that, and that alone, I come ;
Glory's my call, and blood my trade ;
And thus—Then forth he drew his blade.

The Rev. Mr. Marjoram prescribes
arsenic in the enemy's gruel, as the surest
and safest method to dispatch him.

More soft, more gentle than a lamb,
The reverend Mister Marjoram
Arose—but first, with finger's tip,
He pats the patch upon his lip,
Then o'er it glides his healing tongue ;
And thus he said—or rather sung :
“ Sure 'tis the error of the moon !
What, fight a mimic, a buffoon !
In France he has the Church's curse,
And England's Church is ten times worse.

Have

Have you not read the Holy Writ
 Just publish'd by a reverend wit?*

That every actor is a thing,
 A Merry Andrew paper king;
 A puppet made of rags and wood,
 The lowest son of earth, mere mud;
 Mere public game, where'er you meet him,
 And cobblers as they please may treat him?
 Slave, coxcomb, venal, and what not?
 Ten thousand names that I've forgot—
 Then risque not thus a precious life
 In such a low, unnat'ral strife;
 And sure to stab him would be cruel;
 I vote for arsenic in his gruel."

The chairman closes the debate, by
 assuring them that he has found out a more
 mortal weapon than poison or the sword.

Then from his bosom forth he drew
 A crow-quill pen—"Behold, for you,
 And your revenge, this instrument!
 From hell it came, to me 'twas sent:
 Within is poison, sword, and all;
 Its point a dagger dipt in gall.
 Keen ling'ring pangs the foe shall feel,
 While clouds the hand that stabs conceal.

* Supposed to be writ by a Methodist divine.

With this, while living, I'll dissect him;
 Create his errors, then detect them;
 Swell tiny faults to monstrous size,
 Then point them out to pur-blind eyes.
 Attended with some noisy cit,
 Of strong belief, but puny wit,
 I'll take my seat, be rude and loud,
 That each remark may reach the crowd;
 At Lear will laugh, be hard as rocks,
 And sit at Scrub like barbers blocks:
 When all is still, we'll roar like thunder;
 When all applaud, be mute, and wonder!
 In this I boast uncommon merit;
 I like, have prais'd his genius, spirit:
 His various pow'rs, I own, divert me;
 'Tis his *success* alone has hurt me.

Churchill drew his rough, but masterly pen, against Fitz-----k; and, in fifty expressive lines, described one of the most odious characters that nature is capable of producing.

Mr. Fitz-----k, whatever his feelings might be from the Fribbleriad and Churchill's poetry, smothered his resentment, till it burst forth in the riot which he raised on account of the playhouse charges.

C H A P.

CHAP. XXXI.

*Author of Elvira---Some account of him---
His first poetical production----His ac-
quaintance with Mr. Pope and lord Boling-
broke---Tragedy of Euridice--- Alfred, in
conjunction with Mr. Thomson---Anecdote
of Thomson----Tragedy of Mustapha----
Appointed to write the life of the duke of
Marlborough with Mr. Glover--- Alfred---
The publisher of Bolingbroke's works----
Behaviour to a printer---Stratagem to get
Elvira acted----Success of it----Mallet's
religious principles---A remarkable story---
Death.*

BEFORE I take notice of the success which followed Elvira in 1763, the reader may desire to peruse some account of Mr. Mallet, the author, who had, long before that period, written several dramatic compositions, which were acted at the same theatre of Drury-lane.

This

This actor was, when very young, janitor of the High School of Edinburgh. His real name was MacGregor, a member of a Scotch clan, who had rendered themselves so notorious, as well as obnoxious, for acts of violence and robbery, that they were obliged, by an act of parliament, to change the name of MacGregor for another. Our author chose that of Malloch; but after having used it some time, and signed it to a dedication, he thought it sounded so unpolite and unharmonious, that he afterwards softened it into Mallet. The first production of his muse, and when he was very young, was a sweet and plaintive ballad called William and Margaret. Captain Thompson, the editor of Andrew Marvell's works, declares that he found this poetical nosegay among many other productions of the same author, in a folio MS. of his works, and with several poems published by Mr. Addison in the Spectator.

The English poetry, in Marvell's time, was certainly not arrived at that elegance
and

and harmony so visible in the song of William and Margaret, and the hymns and versions of psalms in the Spectator; which latter bear evident marks of their being Mr. Addison's own composition. Nor can I presume to rob Mr. Mallet of the merit of writing William and Margaret, on so slender a proof as that of its being found in a volume of manuscript poems attributed to Mr. Marvell, a name which deserves to be revered by every sincere lover of his country. Mr. Mallet having distinguished himself as a man of learning and capacity, was appointed travelling tutor to his Grace the duke of Montrose, and his brother, lord George Graham. Soon after he returned to England, he wrote his tragedy of Euridice, which was acted at the theatre in Drury-lane in 1731. Aaron Hill wrote the prologue and epilogue, and was enthusiastically warm in his praises of the play, though he found great fault with the acting of it. Euridice is not written to the heart; the language is not original in many places, but borrowed from other plays; nor are the
situations

situations of the characters interesting, any more than the characters themselves are justly or powerfully drawn; Periander and Procles are Tamerlane and Bajazet, only in dissimilar situations of fortune.

We have in this play rage without producing terror, and grief that causes no commiseration. Euridice was revived almost thirty years after its first representation. The principal characters were personated by Mr. Garrick and Mrs. Cibber, but to no effect. The passions of love and jealousy are, of all others, the most capable of affecting the minds of the spectators; but all the skill of a Garrick, and pathos of a Cibber, could not extort a tear from the audience. But the author would not take the blame upon himself; he sat in the orchestra, and bestowed his execrations plentifully upon the players, to whom he attributed the cold reception of his tragedy.

He soon after published his poem of Verbal Criticism; a trite satire on pedants and pedantry, composed of such commonplace raillery as that with which small wits usually

usually attack great and eminent scholars. Bentley's *Paradise Lost* was indeed a fair mark for censure; and we must reckon that work amongst the dotages of that learned man, who published his edition of Milton in a very advanced age. But Mallet's attack upon Theobald was equally ignorant and illiberal; for the *Shakespeare Restored* of this writer laid the foundation of just criticism upon our great poet. However, the poem was written with a design to ingratiate the author with Mr. Pope, who soon after introduced him to lord Bolingbroke.

Thomson and Mallet were recommended to the patronage of Frederick prince of Wales, who appointed them both his secretaries. The politics of St. James's and of Leicester House being very opposite, these writers were employed by the friends of the prince to justify his conduct, and vindicate his cause, by attacking the administration of Sir Robert Walpole.

It must be confessed that no prince was ever surrounded with men of more extensive abilities and greater worth than
 Frederick

Frederick prince of Wales, who, I am well informed, sometimes condescended to take up the pen in vindication of his own cause ; but so diffident was his royal highness of his own abilities, that he generally destroyed what he had written, though he might sometimes permit Dr. D---, or some other able writer, to make use of his ideas. The two poets, Thomson and Mallet, did not pretend to understand political argument, but were supposed capable of interesting the public in favour of their master's cause by the art of working up a fable in a tragedy, and in the drawing characters, and giving them such language, as an audience could not fail properly to apply. Thomson, under the auspices of his great patron, brought his Agamemnon on Drury-lane stage. I remember the following speech of the principal character in the play, which was spoken to Ægisthus, was greatly applauded :

—————But the most fruitful source
Of every evil—O that I in thunder
Could found it o'er the lift'ning world to kings,
Is delegating power to wicked hands.

Agamemnon,

Agamemnon, though well acted, was not written agreeably to the taste of the critics, who very justly observed, that he had not entirely preserved antient manners and characters; Clytemnestra did not resemble the portrait drawn of her by Æschylus, which is more consistent and agreeable to history. The displeasure of the audience shewn to certain scenes produced a whimsical effect upon the author; he had promised to meet some friends at a tavern as soon as the play was ended, but he was obliged to defer his attending them to a very late hour. When he came, they asked him the reason of his stay; he told them, that the critics had sweated him so terribly by their severe treatment of certain parts of his tragedy, that the perspiration was so violent, as to render his wig unfit to wear; and that he had spent a great deal of time amongst the peruke-makers in procuring a proper cover for his head.

Though Thomson's Edward and Eleonora was excluded the stage, because the licenser saw, as he imagined, a formidable attack

upon the minister; Mallet's Mustapha, which was said to glance both at the king and Sir Robert Walpole, in the characters of Solyman the Magnificent and Rustan his vizier, was acted with great applause.

On the first night of its exhibition were assembled all the chiefs, in opposition to the court; and many speeches were applied by the audience to the supposed grievances of the times, and to persons and characters. The play was in general well acted; more particularly the parts of Solyman and Mustapha, by Quin and Milward. Mr. Pope was present, in the boxes; and at the end of the play went behind the scenes, a place which he had not visited for some years. He expressed himself to be well pleased with his entertainment; and particularly addressed himself to Quin, who was greatly flattered with the distinction paid him by so great a man; and when Pope's servant brought his master's scarlet cloak, Quin insisted upon the honour of putting it on.

The language of Mustapha differs widely from that of Euridice, which abounds in
turgid

turgid expression; the former is more flowing and genuine, as well as more easy and natural. In all probability Mr. Pope contributed not a little to this visible alteration of style. The characters of Solyman, Mustapha, Zanga, Rustan, and Roxolana, are drawn with skill; and the conduct of the fable is managed with some degree of probability. The play is founded on the jealousy of power, which cannot bear a rival in a successor. The author has in several places made good use of Tacitus, particularly in a speech of Rustan, where he describes the tumultuous behaviour of the janizaries at the appearance of the emperor; which is nearly a translation of an admirable passage in that writer, where he describes the struggle of contending passions in the equally terrified and terrifying Roman legions in Pannonia, when in the presence of their general Drusus, the emperor's son.----
 Illi quoties oculos ad multitudinem retulerant, vocibus truculentis strepere, rursus viso Cæsare, trepidare, murmur incertum,

atrox clamor, et repente quies, diversis animorum motibus pavebant, terrebantque :

———When they cast their eyes abroad
On their own gather'd strength, rekindled rage
Spoke loud their madness in tempestuous shouts,
And mingled uproar !—I beheld from far
The various horror ; how at once they rag'd,
At once kept silence ; and as thwarting passions
By turns prevail'd, were dreadful and dismay'd.

Thomson and Mallet were soon after commanded by the prince of Wales to write the masque of Alfred, to celebrate the birthday of lady Augusta, his eldest daughter ; which was twice acted, in the gardens of Clifden, by Quin, Milward, Mrs. Clive, Mrs. Horton, and other players. The accommodations for the company, I was told, were but scanty, and ill managed ; and the players were not treated as persons ought to be who are employed by a prince. Quin, I believe, was admitted among those of the higher order ; and Mrs. Clive might be safely trusted to take care of herself any where.

Mr.

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Mr. Mallet's reputation was now so highly advanced, that the dutchess of Marlborough left 1000*l.* by legacy to him and Mr. Glover, as a reward for writing the life of the duke of Marlborough. The latter declining the task, the whole sum became the property of the former.

Mr. Mallet, after the death of his friend Thomson, which happened in 1748, resumed the story of Alfred, on which they had written in conjunction. He observed that, in the first sketch, Alfred was but the second character in his own piece; and this, I imagine, was owing to the influence of Quin, whose manner of speaking and figure were better adapted to the part of the hermit than Alfred. He found himself obliged to make great alterations, more agreeable to the dignity of the principal part, and more suited to Mr. Garrick's person and powers, who undertook to act it. Abundance of songs, and some odes, were added, and many new incidents and characters; so that little of the old masque remained. In decorations of magnificent triumphal arches,

38 THE LIFE OF

dances of furies, various harmony of music and incantations, fine scenes and dresses, this masque exceeded every thing which had ever before made its appearance on the English stage.

The subject was noble, and well worthy the pen of the most sublime genius. I scarce know any character in history so truly grand and honourable as that of Alfred;* and we may defy all the writers from his days to our own to furnish one equal in every princely virtue to this renowned king. That Mallet's genius could not rise to the idea of this great and accomplished man, is not to be wondered at; but at the same time we must grant that the attempt was generous. He has laid hold of a circumstance in his

* Swift, in his list of six great men, to whom no seventh (as he says) could be added, might have very safely made a septemvirate with Alfred, who deserved a better title to fame than Aristides; a man who, after having robbed the common treasury of Greece deposited at Delphos, declared indeed that the action was not just, but very profitable.

history truly dramatical, his disguising himself in a mean habit, to preserve himself for occasions to deliver his people from the tyranny of the Danes, and to restore their liberty; and it must be owned too, that the principles of government which he inculcates throughout the piece, are liberal, and fit for the instruction of a prince who is to govern a free people.

This masque was, I believe, written under the influence, and by the encouragement of lord Bolingbroke; nor do the political maxims insisted upon in it differ from those laid down so copiously in his idea of the Patriot King. More than this, and what the reader will perhaps think worth his attention, lord Bolingbroke wrote the three following stanzas in the celebrated song of Rule Britannia, &c. in the year 1751, a few months before his death, and which, I suppose, he intended to be prophetic of the glories of his present Majesty's reign.

Should war, should faction shake the isle,
And sink to poverty and shame,
Heaven still shall on Britannia smile,
Restore her wealth, and raise her name.

Rule, Britannia, rule the waves :

Britons never will be slaves.

How blest the prince reserv'd by fate,
In adverse days to mount thy throne,
Renew thy once triumphant state,
And on thy grandeur build his own.

Rule, Britannia, &c.

His race shall long, in times to come,
So heaven ordains, thy sceptre wield ;
Rever'd abroad, belov'd at home,
And be at once thy sword and shield.

Rule, Britannia, &c. &c.

Mr. Mallet, about the year 1749, was employed by his patron, Bolingbroke, in a business which, if he had any feeling, must have been very disagreeable to him, the writing the preface to an edition of the Patriot King, in which he was obliged to censure the conduct of his friend Mr. Pope.

This

This great man had been entrusted with a few printed copies of the book, and enjoined to communicate the knowledge of it to a few select persons only; but he had, unknown to the author, printed an edition privately of 1500 copies.

To undertake the defence of Mr. Pope would argue either folly or dissingenuity; where pardon is wanted, apology is presumption. But, after all, did he deserve to be exposed so publicly and so severely by the man whom he loved, nay adored, and whose praises, in his admirable verses, will live to all posterity? No, surely; he that could confer immortality might well be forgiven the intended publication of a work which did honour to him who was intentionally deprived of the right to publish it.

The Hermit, or Amyntor and Theodora, a poem, Mr. Mallet published, I think, about the year 1752. Some critics have been very warm in their censures of it, and particularly Dr. Warton, in his Essay on the Life and Writings of Pope: "The
"nauseous affectation of expressing every
"thing

“ thing pompously and poetically, is no
“ where more visible than in a poem, lately
“ published, called *Amyntor and Theodora*.”

Dr. Warton is said to have as much candour as learning, and I am inclined to believe it; but he must have read the poem very superficially, to have pronounced so uncandid a sentence upon it.

It is, of all Mallet's poems, the most affecting and pathetic; and which, if he had worked up into a play, as he once intended, would have produced a very fine effect. What a glorious part would Garrick have made of either *Aurelius* or *Amyntor*! and how much would the public have been charmed with *Mrs. Cibber's Theodora*!

There are in this poem two interviews between *Aurelius* and *Amyntor*, and *Amyntor* and *Theodora*, which will force the tear of anguish from the most unfeeling.

The *Hermit* has, besides these pathetic scenes, great merit. The descriptions of wild and savage nature are striking and picturesque; the storm and shipwreck are worked up with all the images natural to the tremendous scene: it abounds
with

with many excellent moral precepts, which receive weight and energy from the sanction of religion: despair and suicide are discountenanced, and mentioned with horror and detestation; an awful submission to the divine will is strongly inculcated throughout the whole poem. So far from censuring Mr. Mallet's poem of the Hermit, Dr. Warton should rather have exclaimed, with every friend of truth and virtue,

O! si sic omnia dixisset!

Lord Bolingbroke died in December 1751, and left all his writings, published and unpublished, to Mr. Mallet; but with respect to those political works printed in his lifetime, he expressed himself cautiously, as if he foresaw that somebody would lay claim to them; and therefore he left them to his legatee, as far as he lawfully could.

When Mallet had prepared lord Bolingbroke's works for the press, he was surprised with a claim of Mr. Richard Francklin, the printer, who had, in 1726, published lord Bolingbroke's Political Tracts; and in
1735-6,

1735-6, retailed in the Craftsman his Remarks upon the History of England, and his Dissertation on Parties; and afterwards, by the consent, or at least connivance, of the author, printed them in separate volumes. And indeed the printer and publisher of the Craftsman had a claim, from his sufferings at least, to all that the heads of the then country party could do for him. He was prosecuted by the Crown several times, and had been confined several years in the prison of the King's Bench for a letter written from the Hague, which, at this time, would have passed unnoticed. 'Tis true, several noblemen and gentlemen subscribed, each of them, a sum of 50l. to Francklin, as a compensation for his losses; and it is as true, that no more than three of them paid their money. Lord Bath was one. Mr. Francklin was printer to Drury-lane theatre. He and Mr. Mallet were advised by Mr. Garrick, and other friends, to leave the matter in dispute to the arbitration of two persons who were supposed by them to be competent judges
of

of the question. Mallet named Mr. Garrick's friend, Mr. Draper, a partner of Jacob Tonson; and Francklin chose Mr. Thomas Wotton, an eminent bookseller, who had retired from business. A writing was drawn, wherein the question was stated, and a power given to the umpires to decide upon it, signed by the parties.

After mature deliberation, the arbitrators gave their decree in writing, as follows: That Mr. Mallet should pay Mr. Francklin the sum of five hundred pounds, for leave to print the political works of lord Bolingbroke, which had been published in his lordship's life-time, in a complete collection of the said nobleman's writings, and in any form which he thought proper, and as often as he pleased; with this proviso, that Mr. Francklin should be at liberty to print the books in question in separate volumes, as usual.

Mr. Mallet did by no means approve the decision; and Francklin, by trusting to his honour, in not having insisted upon bonds of arbitration, was deprived of the benefit of the award.

A near

A near relation of the printer stated the facts, as related, in a small pamphlet, which he dispersed in the metropolis, especially in all the most frequented coffee-houses, and particularly in that which Mr. Mallet used to visit almost every day. Soon after several of Mr. Mallet's and Mr. Francklin's case had been laid on the table, the former entered the room of this coffee-house, and took up one of them, as if he intended to read it; but he was so confounded with the subject, that he withdrew, taking the pamphlet with him, which was immediately replaced by the person who came for the purpose of dispersing it.

The sum of five hundred pounds, for leave to print two or three old volumes, will doubtless appear exorbitant at present; but, at that time, the right of copy was esteemed a valuable perpetuity; and we cannot now condemn two very intelligent and honest men for a decision in favour of that property which was so highly rated above six and twenty years ago. Mr. Mallet's conduct will not bear justification. But though we cannot defend his behaviour,

we

we may perhaps alledge something by way of excuse. Mr. Mallet and his lady appeared to all the world to be the happiest couple in it, and I desire to have no doubt that they really were what they wished the world should think them. However, Mrs. Mallet, to her excessive love, joined the most consummate prudence. Every shilling of her fortune, which amounted to seven or eight thousand pounds, she settled upon herself; but then she took all imaginable care that Mr. Mallet should appear like a gentleman of distinction, and, from her great kindness, always chose herself to purchase every thing that he wore; hat, stockings, coat, waistcoat, &c. were all of her own choice, and at her own cost; and such was the warmth of her fondness, that she took care all the world should know the pains she bestowed on her husband's dress.*

Mallet dreamt of getting golden mountains by Bolingbroke's legacy; he was so sanguine in his expectations, that he rejected the offer of three thousand pounds

* Mr. Mallet's favourite dress was a suit of black velvet.

tendered to him by Mr. Millar the bookseller, for the copy-right of that nobleman's works; at the same time, he was so distress'd for cash, that he was forced to borrow money of this very bookseller to pay his stationer and printer.

To have paid Mr. Francklin the allotted fine of five hundred pounds, would have been a most distressful circumstance to Mallet; and we must charitably suppose, that his conduct on that occasion was not an act of choice, but of necessity.

Mallet heartily repented his refusal of Mr. Millar's offer; for the first impression of his edition of Bolingbroke's works was not sold off in twenty years.

This whole affair may seem foreign to a stage history, and perhaps be termed an idle digression; but it will not altogether appear so very unconnected with the narrative I proposed to write, when the reader is told that Mr. Garrick, who was an acquaintance of Mr. Pelham, and a firm friend to the establishment in church and state, published an ode, which is to be seen
in

in Mr. Doddsley's Poems, and well deserves a place in that collection ; in which he laments very pathetically two things, the death of Mr. Pelham, and the publication of Bolingbroke's works, which fell out on the same day, March 6, 1754.

A few quotations from this little poem will give the reader a taste of his genius in this species of writing, a proof of his unalterable regard for Mr. Pelham, and of his detestation of the philosophical and religious principles of St. John.

In the first and second stanzas he insists upon the generous and disinterested motives which inspire his muse to lament the death of Mr. Pelham.

Let others hail the rising sun,
I bow to that whose course is run,
Which sets in endless night;
Whose rays benignant bless'd the isle,
Made peaceful nature round it smile
With calm, but chearful light.

No bounty past provokes my praise,
No future prospects prompt my lays,
From real grief they flow.

I catch the alarm from Britain's fears,
My sorrows fall with Britain's tears,
And join a nation's woe.

After describing the lamentations and mourning of a grateful people for the loss of so patriotic a minister, and the more affectionate sorrow of his intimate friends, his family and relations, he addresses the poetical tribe, reproaching them for their silence on such a melancholy occasion, and so public a calamity.

What, mute, ye bards ? no mournful verse,
No chaplets to adorn his hearse ?
To crown the good and just ?
Your flowers in warmer regions bloom ;
You seek no pensions from the tomb,
No laurels from the dust.

He supposes that some crime of the deepest dye had provoked the hand of Heaven to snatch from Britain its greatest ornament and defence ; and to punish our wickedness, by calling off our guardian angel, and permitting

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mitting our evil genius to stalk at large. He then explains his meaning, by pointing out two dreadful events of one unpropitious day.

The same sad morn to church and state
(So for our sins 'twas fix'd by fate,)

A double stroke was giv'n;
Black as the whirlwinds of the north,
St. John's fell genius issued forth,
And Pelham fled to heaven.

Then, in the true spirit of poetry, he addresses the divine part of his deceased friend, and begs him still to watch over Britain.

Look down, much honoured shade, below,
Still let thy pity aid our woe,
Stretch out thy healing hand;
Resume those feelings which on earth
Proclaim'd thy patriot love and worth,
And save a sinking land.

The next stanza seems to imply that Pelham had misplaced his confidence, and cherished men unworthy of his friendship.

Search with thy more than mortal eye
The breasts of all thy friends ; descry
What there has got possession :
See if thy unsuspecting heart
In some, for truth, mistook not art ;
For principle, profession.

He then exhorts him to guard the king,
on whom the nation's welfare depends, from
such disguised traitors.

From these the pests of human kind,
Whom royal bounty cannot bind,
Protect our parent king ;
Unmask their treach'ry to his sight,
Drag forth the vipers into light,
And crush them ere they sting.

He concludes with a warm invitation to
the patriotic band to unite in the cause of
their country, and to imitate the virtues of
Pelham.

Unite, ye kindred sons of worth,
Strangle bold faction in its birth,
Be Britain's weal your view ;
For this great end let all combine,
Let virtue link each fair design,
And Pelham live in you.

Mr.

Mr. Mallet's masque of Britannia was acted in 1755. Mr. Garrick spoke a humorous epilogue to it in the character of a drunken sailor, part of which he composed himself.

The masque has little variety in it, nor does it charm either with power of imagination or energy of sentiment. The Britons are called bold and brave in one place, rough and honest in another. The plainest is the truest heart—Let not Punic art amuse thee—Let not Punic oaths abuse thee, &c. With such trite thoughts and hackneyed metre does the Britannia abound. However, Mallet gained what he wanted by it; it was acted a few nights, and played for the benefit of the author.

There was indeed something in this masque that deserves our remembrance. Britannia was represented by Mrs. Jefferson, the most complete figure in beauty of countenance and symmetry of form I ever beheld. This good woman (for she was as virtuous as fair) was so unaffected and simple in her behaviour, that she knew not her power of charm-

ing. Her beautiful figure and majestic step in the character of Anna Bullen, drew the admiration of all that saw her. She was very tall; and had she been happy in abilities to act characters of consequence, she would have been an excellent partner in tragedy for Mr. Barry. In the vicissitudes of itinerant acting, she had been often reduced, from the small number of players in the company she belonged to, to disguise her lovely form, and to assume parts very unsuitable to so delicate a creature.

When she was asked what characters she excelled in most, she innocently replied, *Old men in comedy*; meaning such parts as Fondlewife in the *Old Batchelor*, and Sir Jealous Traffic in the *Busy Body*. She died suddenly at Plymouth, as she was looking at a dance that was practising for the night's representation. In the midst of a hearty laugh, she was seized with a sudden pain, and expired in the arms of Mr. Moody, who happened to stand by, and saved her from falling on the ground.

Till the year 1763, we hear nothing of Mallet, except a dedication of his poems to
the

the late duke of Marlborough, in which he promises himself speedily the honour of dedicating to him, the life of his great relation. I have not seen this dedication, nor any later edition of his works than that of 1759. In the preface to his *Alfred* he had there suppressed what he had said in a former advertisement to that masque, published 1751, that it was written to amuse himself, amidst the fatigues of his great work, the life of the duke of Marlborough.

However, this same life, which he never finished, nor of which did he indeed ever write any considerable part, served him as a kind of stalking horse, to reach at any game which he had in prospect.

When he finished his *Elvira*, he cast about in what manner he could best prevail upon Mr. Garrick to act it. He knew that his revived *Euridice*, and his masque of *Britannia*, had done nothing for the managers, though he had gained something by them himself. He waited on Mr. Garrick, in the usual intercourse of friendship, with *Elvira* in his pocket.

After

After the common salute, Mr. Garrick asked him what it was that employed his studies; Why, upon my word, said Mallet, I am eternally fatigued with preparing and arranging materials for the life of the great duke of Marlborough; all my nights and days are occupied with that history; and you know, Mr. Garrick, that it is a very bright and interesting period in the British annals. But hark you, my friend! do you know that I have found out a pretty snug nich in it for you? Heh! how's that! a nich for me! (said the manager, turning quickly upon him, his eyes sparkling with unusual fire) How the devil could you bring me into the history of John Churchill, duke of Marlborough? That's my business, my dear friend, (rejoined Mallet) but I tell you, I have done it. Well, faith! you have the art of surprizing your friends in the most unexpected and the politest manner: but why won't you, now, who are so well qualified, write something for the stage? You should relax. *Interpone tuis*—ha! you know! for I am sure the theatre

theatre is a mere matter of diversion, a pleasure to you.

Why, faith, (said the other) to tell you the truth, I have, whenever I could rob the duke of an hour or so, employed myself in adapting La Motte's *Ines de Castro* to the English stage, and here it is. The manager embraced Elvira with rapture, and brought it forward with all expedition.

A gentleman of the law, who could not miss such an opportunity of laughing at Mr. Garrick's vanity, met him one day, and told him he had been applied to by the booksellers to publish an edition of the *Statutes at Large*, and he hoped he should find a snug niche in them to introduce him.

The story of *Elvira* is exceedingly affecting, and Mrs. Cibber would excite tears, if possible, from insensibility; but the style of Mallet is not dramatic; it is laboured and affected, void of nature and simplicity. The play was well acted, but I believe it was stopped at the ninth night. Some applications made by the pit to an unpopular nobleman

bleman, did no manner of service to it. Mallet, alarmed at the discontinuing the run of his last and favourite offspring, acquainted Mr. Garrick by a note, that he had received forty cards from persons of distinction, all of whom desired to know the reason why his play was stopped; and for an answer, he had referred them to him, the proper judge.

Mr. Garrick had no stomach to repeat the acting of a tragedy that was not approved by the public, and in which he had received so great a mortification. The part of Don Pedro in *Elvira* was the last new character he ever acted.

I have said a great deal of this gentleman, and yet there was a striking peculiarity in his conduct that I ought not to omit, as it may very probably convey some useful advice to others. He was a great freethinker, and a very free speaker of his free thoughts; he made no scruple to disseminate his sceptical opinions where-ever he could with any propriety introduce them.

At

At his own table indeed, the lady of the house (who was a staunch advocate for her husband's opinions) would often, in the warmth of argument, say "*Sir, we deists.*"

The lecture upon the non credenda of the freethinkers was repeated so often, and urged with so much earnestness, that the inferior domestics became soon as able disputants as the heads of the family. The fellow who waited at table being thoroughly convinced, that for any of his mis-deeds he should have no after account to make, was resolved to profit by the doctrine, and made off with many things of value, particularly the plate. Luckily he was so closely pursued, that he was brought back with his prey to his master's house, who examined him before some select friends. At first, the man was sullen, and would answer no questions put to him; but being urged to give a reason for his infamous behaviour, he resolutely said, Sir, I had heard you so often talk of the impossibility of a future state, and that after death there was no reward for
virtue,

virtue, or punishment for vice, that I was tempted to commit the robbery. Well; but you rascal, (replied Mallet) had you no fear of the gallows? Sir, (said the fellow, looking sternly at his master) what is that to you, if I had a mind to venture that? you had removed my greatest terror; why should I fear the lesser? Mr. Mallet died April 21, 1765.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXXII.

Reflections upon the ill success of Drury-lane theatre in 1763----Mr. Garrick sets out for Italy----Causes of his journey.

THE profits of Drury-lane theatre, in 1763, fell very short in their amount to those of preceeding years. This was owing to one of those revolutions in the public taste, which we cannot well be surprized at, because it so frequently happens, and is so fairly deducible from the love of novelty and variety. Mr. John Beard, a man universally beloved for his many amiable qualities, had, in 1761, succeeded his father in law, Mr. Rich, in the management of Covent-garden theatre. Mr. Beard was a joint sharer in the patent with several other near relations of Mr. Rich, and was with great propriety chosen to manage the interest of the several legatees.

He applied himself with great care to the task assigned him; as he was an excellent
finger,

finger, and a compleat judge of all musical pieces, he was determined to promote, amongst other entertainments of the stage, that which he understood best. He, in a very short time, presented to the public English operas and ballad operas, burlesque operas and dramatic operas, &c. particularly *Artaxerxes*, *Thomas and Sally*, *Love in a Village*, *Midas*, the *Maid of the Mill*, and the *Shepherd's Artifice*; all which were played successively, and so accommodated by music, as well as acting, to the reigning taste, that they met with uncommon approbation. But his engaging a new finger, rejected by the manager of Drury-lane, absolutely turned the scale of public approbation, in spite of all the skill and various abilities of Mr. Garrick in favour of Mr. Beard.

Miss Brent, a scholar of Dr. Arne, had been employed in an oratorio performed at Drury-lane in the spring of 1762: her voice had not then reached that full strength and melody, to which, by frequent practice, it afterwards attained. However, it
was

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was then clear, pleasing and harmonious, and gave a very fair promise of rising to great perfection. Arne made a tender of her abilities to Mr. Garrick, at a very moderate income. A taste for music, or even a tolerable ear for a song, was not amongst Mr. Garrick's endowments.

Notwithstanding he was strongly pressed by several of his friends to employ Miss Brent, he persisted in refusing. It was one of his failings to reject frequently propositions from others, though apparently for his advantage. He would always seem at least to be the first mover himself of every undertaking; as if he thought listening to the advice of his friends implied a degradation of his understanding.

The ensuing winter he had full leisure to repent his obstinacy; for Mr. Beard made Miss Brent his most powerful engine to demolish the success and humble the pride of Drury-lane.

Of all the entertainments of the stage, none has been so perpetually serviceable to the players as Gay's Beggar's Opera. A
new

new Polly, or a new Macheath, has successively given such a spirit and lustre to that humourous dramatic satire, that the public has often run in crowds to see it, for twenty or thirty nights successively.

Miss Brent was deficient in beauty, as well as form, to represent the amiable simplicity of Polly Peachum; but such were the powers of her voice, though in her songs she was absolutely wide of the author's original design, (who intended no more than the giving a common ballad tune, in the simplest manner) that London seemed to be more enamoured with the Beggar's Opera, than when the principal parts were originally acted by Tom Walker and Miss Fenton, afterwards the dutchess of Bolton.

In vain did Garrick oppose his prime characters in comedy and tragedy, such as Ranger and Benedict, Hamlet and Lear, to Polly Peachum. That bewitching Syren charmed all the world; and, like another Orpheus, drew crowds perpetually after her.

Beard

Beard followed his blow with the opera of Artaxerxes, in which the songs were set to most delightful music by Arne. In short, the people were allured this year by nothing but the power of sound and singing; Shakespeare and Garrick were obliged to quit the field to Beard and Brent.

Mr. Garrick had long meditated a journey to the continent; and I cannot but suppose, that the several disagreeable occurrences which attended the last year of his management, had contributed to quicken his resolution of leaving for a time his native country. His own, and Mrs. Garrick's health, were not so firm as their friends and the public wished. The baths of Padua were celebrated for their healing power in certain disorders, and pronounced efficacious in Mrs. Garrick's case. Exercise, amusement and change of air were what her husband seemed principally to want. To a mind active and inquisitive, such as Mr. Garrick's, the knowledge of foreign customs would afford instruction as well as entertainment. The theatres on the continent, with their mul-

tifarious exhibitions, might, in all probability, furnish him with proper materials to enrich his own dominions on his return home. His inclination to travel might gain additional strength from two other motives, very incidental to the human breast; the desire of increasing his importance, by not being so often seen; and convincing the public, that the success and splendour of the stage depended solely on himself. He set out for Dover, in his way to Calais, the 15th of September, 1763, accompanied by Mrs. Garrick, who, from the day of her marriage till the death of her husband, had never been separated from him for twenty-four hours.

C H A P. XXXIII.

State of the stage during Mr. Garrick's absence on his tour to the continent----Mr. Powell, a young actor, favoured by Mr. Lacy and Mr. Coleman----Greatly applauded and followed----His fondness for the profession of acting-----Consequence of a dispute between him and a low comedian-----His merit rewarded.

WHEN Mr. Garrick set out on his travels, he did not leave his theatre unprovided of some support during his absence: he engaged Pompeo, an Italian singer; and he recommended to his partner, and Mr. George Garrick his brother, whom he had appointed his substitute in his absence, the performing of some musical pieces, and such sort of stage entertainment chiefly as would please the sight and charm the ear.

The joint labours of the machinist, the painter, and the musician, with a very small

portion of the poet's art, he knew would produce a considerable effect upon an audience such as the English, which is composed of all ranks and degrees of people.

He had, besides the giving this important advice, during the summer months, instructed a young gentleman, whose name was Powell, in several characters, and particularly the Philaster of Beaumont and Fletcher, and Posthumus in Shakespeare's Cymbeline. But notwithstanding these helps, he had so just an opinion of his own personal strength, and the great chasm which his absence must create in the operations of the theatre, that he assured his partner he would write to him from every stage of his journey; and if his presence should be found to be absolutely necessary, he would be in London at a very short warning.

Powell had the good sense, by a most obliging manner and polite address, to recommend himself to Mr. Lacy and Mr. Coleman. The latter was induced either by desire of Mr. Garrick, or his own opinion of the merit of the play,

play, to make *Philaster* a proper entertainment for a modern audience, by retrenching superfluous, as well as improper scenes; and with the addition of new matter, to connect the story more dramatically.

The young actor had not only the advantage of Mr. Garrick's instructions, but of Mr. Coleman's advice, who constantly attended the rehearsal of *Philaster*, and was of great service to the performers, from his acquaintance with the drama.

Mr. Lacy, as well as Mr. Coleman, had formed a high opinion of Powell's merit; and indeed he did not disappoint their expectations; for to a very brilliant and critical, though candid audience, he gave very great satisfaction and pleasure; they crowned his first endeavours repeatedly with loud and universal approbation. Foote was in the boxes, and was the only snarler in the house; he endeavoured to laugh those who sat near him out of their feelings, but the power of nature was too strong for the efforts of spleen.

We must not forget that Powell had a very able second in the play of *Philaster*: Mrs. Yates, in the character of Bellario, a lady dressed in the apparel of a youth, displayed such an example of chaste and simple excellence in acting, by the just representation of that character, as the stage had scarce ever seen before. She was dressed with the greatest elegance, as well as propriety, and appeared to be a young innocent shepherd of about seventeen. She preserved through the part a puerile softness and effeminacy, joined to the greatest expression of sensibility.

Powell was particularly happy to have so excellent an assistant in his first effort to gain the good-will of the town. This young actor became the favourite of the public to such a degree, that no player, except Mr. Barry, had, since Mr. Garrick's first eclat, so captivated the affections of all ranks of people. Powell was an enthusiast in acting; he loved the practice of his profession to that extent, that he cared not what number of parts, however different from

from each other, he was called upon to represent. To the surprize of every body, he acquitted himself handsomely, though not equally, in every character which he attempted. Had he restrained his impetuosity, he certainly might have been twice the actor he was.

Holland, who was the friend of Powell, a young actor of much the same age, but who had been upon the stage for five or six years, and trained up by the same master, could not help feeling a little jealousy on the great success of his acquaintance. He was so injudicious at first, as to decline acting in plays where Powell had a principal part ; but was advised by a friend not to make himself useless by such peevish and inconsiderate conduct, but rather to embrace every opportunity to act an equal, and sometimes an inferior part in the same play ; for this behaviour (besides the advantage of being in continual practice) would convince the public of his diligence and readiness to please them, and of his not being mortified at Powell's good fortune.

Holland had the judgment to pursue this counsel, and reaped advantage from it.

The great and unexpected profits, arising from the merit of the young actor's performance, were equal, as I was then informed by Mr. Lacy, to the most successful æra during the joint management of himself and Mr. Garrick. Powell was too fond of acting, to be troubled with theatrical fevers, or feigned sickness; no play was idle where his assistance was wanted; and it is really astonishing, that a raw young man, taken from Sir Robert Ladbroke's compting-house, could throw out such native fire and just spirit, and be touched with such true feeling, accompanied with propriety of action and deportment, in a great variety of parts; in Philaster, Jaffier, Orestes, Othello, Alexander the Great, Lear, Oroonoko, and many others of almost equal consequence and difficulty.

Mr. Lacy took no small pleasure in giving information to his brother manager (then on his travels) of his great tide of success and unexpected fortune; he assured

suared him, he need not abandon any pleasure or amusement which he enjoyed abroad, from any anxiety which he might possibly feel on account of the theatre at home, for that all things went on smoothly and happily ; the new actor had attracted such uncommon crowds of people, that even Mr. Garrick's most principal parts, he said, had not acquired a larger amount of money than the other's acting had produced. He begged him, therefore, to indulge in all the delights which France or Italy could afford, for his share of gain would not be diminished during his absence.

When Mr Garrick was at Paris, he corresponded with this phœnomenon of the theatre, Powell. I have seen a letter of the manager's to him, replete with excellent advice. He politely congratulated him on his great reputation and success in acting ; he put him in mind, that diligence and assiduity could alone establish that fame which he had acquired ; that the falling into low and mean company, and being attached to it, would dissipate his faculties, and lessen

sen his consequence with the public. He quoted a remarkable saying of Baron, the French Roscius, "That actors should be educated on the knees of princes ;" intimating, that they could not possibly personate great and elevated characters, without the acquaintance and countenance of persons of superior rank. Powell's answer, which I likewise saw, was modest, and expressive of the deepest gratitude, with an assurance of his obeying such friendly and reasonable advice.

But indeed Powell was more particularly obliged to Mr. Lacy for the advancement of his fortune. It was a practice with Mr. Garrick to give to raw and unexperienced stage adventurers a small salary the first year of their noviciate, and to raise their income gradually, by some little advance every year after ; and this method he pursued with Holland. The manager did, besides this, give some assistance to these rising players at their benefits, either by playing a part himself, or giving them such other advantages as might make up any deficiency

deficiency of stipend. However, it must be granted, that after the novelty of a few nights performance, such actors as Holland did not much increase the receipts of the treasury.

But with respect to Powell, the case was widely different ; he was the great pillar of the theatre for near two years, during which time he maintained by his merit a superior rank and importance in it. An accidental contest, which he had with a celebrated low comedian, about the priority of rank in a benefit, produced a very happy consequence to Powell. The comedian contended, (and I believe with truth) that the young actor had no right to precedence of benefit, for that he was sure his salary was far below his own. Mr. Lacy, who was present at the dispute, interposed, and declared, that Powell had, and deserved to have as much as any actor ; and if you will, said he, (turning to the comedian) go to the treasurer's office next week, you may there learn your mistake.

Mr.

Mr. George Garrick consented, in the name of his brother, to this generous reward of merit ; for he was sure, he said, that he would not object to it. Holland, I believe, owed likewise a large advance of income to this happy incident

CHAP.

C H A P. XXXIV.

Mr. Garrick's entertainment in France and Italy--The baths of Padua serviceable to Mrs. Garrick ---- The duke of Parma invites Mr. Garrick to give some proof of his theatrical talents ---- His friendly contest with La Clairon ---- Surprising effect of his skill in dumb exhibition ---- His partiality to La Clairon ---- His opinion of foreign stages.

I Shall now, for a time, leave Mr. Lacy to the full enjoyment of a most agreeable flow of success, during the absence of Mr. Garrick, and take a view of the latter in his travels on the continent. The baths of Padua had proved medicinal to Mrs Garrick ; and he too, from the pleasure which so many new objects continually presented to his mind, was full of that spirit and gaiety with which he was sure to enliven every company he came into.

From the travels of a private gentleman and his wife much entertainment cannot
be

be expected, especially when health and amusement were the principal objects of their peregrination.

From his countrymen whom he saw in France and Italy, Mr. Garrick was sure to meet with that respect and friendship which were due to a man of his genius, consequence and character. He was very happy to meet with them, and they rejoiced in having an opportunity to shew him every mark of respect and kindness in their power, and which he could reasonably expect from them. His access to persons of high and distinguished rank, on the continent, was, by his acquaintance with the nobility of England then abroad, rendered as easy and as frequent as his own station in life would admit. The princes of Italy, some of them the descendants and successors of the Roman patricians, affect a grandeur and magnificence, and a state of reserve unknown to their ancestors. A Cæsar, a Lucullus, and a Cicero, would have conversed freely with Roscius and Æsopus in the Roman forum, and admitted them to the most familiar converse

converse in their houses and villas. An Italian Marchese would, with some difficulty, admit a Garrick at his levee, much less would he invite him to a conversationé. An ostentatious pride and distant ceremony supply the place of real grandeur and power.

However, Mr. Garrick's manner was so engaging and attractive, that his company was desired by many foreigners of high birth and great merit. He was sometimes invited to give the company a taste of that art in which he was known so greatly to excel. Such a request he very readily consented to, for indeed his compliance cost him nothing. He could, without the least preparation, transform himself into any character, tragic or comic, and seize instantaneously upon any passion of the human mind. He could make a sudden transition from violent rage, and even madness, to the extremes of levity and humour, and go through the whole circle of theatric evolution with the most surprising velocity.

One

* One of the most illustrious princes of Italy requested he would favour him with some very striking or affecting scene in one of the most admired English tragedies. Mr. Garrick immediately recited a soliloquy of Macbeth, which is spoken by him during the instant of time when a dagger is presented to the disturbed imagination of a man ready to perpetrate a horrid murder. His ardent look, expressive tones, and impassioned action, convinced the nobleman of the reality of his great reputation. But the most remarkable instance which I ever heard of our Roscius's great power to raise the attention, and fix the admiration of an intelligent and very polite company, was told me by a gentleman of unquestioned veracity, and who related the occurrence to me, from the mouth of one who was present when it fell out.

Not long before Mr. Garrick left Paris, in 1765, several persons of the first distinction of both sexes, English and French, met by appointment at the hotel de -----. Mr. and Mrs. Garrick, and Mademoiselle

* The duke of Parma.

Clairon, were of the party. The conversation turned for some time on the belles lettres, in which the merits of several eminent writers were discussed with equal judgment and candour. Many critical observations were made on the action and eloquence of the French and English theatres; and, at the request of this very brilliant circle, La Clairon and Garrick consented to exhibit various specimens of their theatrical talents, which produced much entertainment. This friendly contest lasted for a considerable time, with great animation on both sides; the company loudly declared their approbation, in the strongest terms, of the two exhibitors.

It was remarked, that the French gave the preference to Mr. Garrick; and that the English, with equal politeness, adjudged the victory to Mademoiselle Clairon. But as the greater part of the former were but little acquainted with the English language, Mr. Garrick was induced to relate a fact, and afterwards to exhibit it by action, which happened in one of the provinces

of France at the time he was there, and of which he had been an eye witness. A father, he said, was fondling his child at an open window, from whence they looked into the street; by one unlucky effort the child sprung from his father's arms, fell upon the ground, and died upon the spot: what followed, he said, was a language which every body understood, for it was the language of nature; he immediately threw himself into the attitude in which the father appeared at the time the child leaped from his arms.

The influence which the representation of the father's agony produced on such a company, and exhibited by this darling son of Nature, in the silent, but expressive language of unutterable sorrow, is easier to be imagined than expressed; let it suffice to say, that the greatest astonishment was succeeded by abundant tears.

As soon as the company had recovered from their agitation, Mademoiselle Clairon caught Mr. Garrick in her arms and kissed him; then turning to Mrs. Garrick, she apologized for her conduct, by saying, it
was

was an involuntary mark of her applause. Mademoiselle Clairon was always a favourite actress of Mr. Garrick ; he saw her when she was in the dawn of her reputation, when he paid his first visit to Paris in 1752 ; and though Mademoiselle Dumefnil was then the favourite actress of the French theatre, and justly admired by foreigners, as well as her own countrymen, he ventured to pronounce, that Clairon would excel all competitors. When he was last at Paris, she had, in the opinion of the public, fulfilled his prediction ; on which he published a print, from a drawing of Gravelot, called *La Prophetie Accompli*.

Mr. Garrick's residing for a considerable time in France and Italy afforded him an opportunity to compare the English stage with the theatres on the continent ; and it cannot be doubted, that he noticed with accuracy the form of their buildings, their several ornaments and decorations, the performance of the actors, and all the various compositions of the authors which were worthy of observation.

Notwithstanding the learned of France, and some other countries on the continent, pretend, in their stage exhibitions, to a most accurate imitation of the ancient Greek and Roman dramatic authors, Mr. Garrick was soon convinced that every country, in its theatrical representations, has a taste peculiar to itself, derived from the genius of the people. He saw very plainly, that the characters of Corneille, Voltaire, and Racine, were very different from those of the Greek tragedians; and that the French comedies and Italian burlettas were far from perfect imitations of Aristophanes, Plautus, and Terence. He saw too, that the nearest resemblance of the Greek tragedies is to be found in the present Italian operas; they represent some great action in a simple fable; one eminent character generally is the object of the poet, as well as a strict observation of the unities; the music in the overture, the recitative and the airs bear some correspondence to the ancient chorus. The excellent Metastasio, by the force
of

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of his genius, brought the Greek and Roman heroes to enrich and dignify the Italian opera. His Alexander, Regulus, Cato, and Themistocles, are as truly, though not as strongly, delineated, as the masterly characters of Shakespeare himself.

CHAP. XXXV.

State of the stage during Mr. Garrick's absence continued--- His advice pursued ---- Several musical pieces ---- Royal Shepherd, Almena, Pharnaces ---- Platonic Wife unexpectedly saved from the fury of the critics ---- Folly of two young actors ---- Powell and Holland characterized.

MR. Lacy did not neglect the advice of his partner, who had very seriously recommended to him the acting of musical pieces in his absence. The Royal Shepherd, Almena, and Pharnaces, three English operas, were played in succession, with little or no profit to the manager, the poet, or the musician. Nor will such serious and pompous entertainments, in our own language, though accompanied with excellent music, vocal and instrumental, with fine scenes, magnificent habits, and other beautiful decorations, ever become the favourite amusement of an English audience. The serious and comic, happily blended,

blended, as in the *Duenna* and *Love in a Village*; or the entirely comic, as in the *Beggar's Opera*; the farcical, as in *Midas*; or even a simple fable, elegantly told, such as the *Oracle of Mrs. Cibber*, altered afterwards to *Daphne and Amintor*; such dramatic pieces as these are just representations of nature, humour and passion, and will for ever charm.

The fortune of the *Platonic Wife*, written by Mrs. Griffith, merits our remembrance, on account of some whimsical and absurd circumstances which fell out during its representation.

The audience, under the influence of a few tremendous critics, (though not very formidable persons, except on account of their extreme want of candour) who took upon themselves the trouble of judging for all the rest of the spectators, treated this comedy, on the first night of acting it, with uncommon severity, though the play had a just claim to attention, from sentiment, character, and moral tendency. The greatest fault, perhaps, consisted in the title of

the play, which was certainly a misnomer ; for the lady is so far from a Platonic, that her resentment to her husband proceeds from his neglect of her after marriage ; nor did the management of the principal incident in the play, the portraits, produce on the first night the effect which the author, who wrote perhaps with too much precipitation, intended. The critics were so exceedingly clamorous, that the writer gave up her play for lost. Holland and Powell, who acted principal parts in it, and had not been used to the noise of cat-calls, hisses, groans and horse-laughs, the most powerful instruments in the exploding of a play, were so much intimidated, and so forgetful of their duty, as to thrust their heads on the stage from behind the curtain, and to entreat these merciful gentlemen, called the town, to put an end to the play that very night, that they might be no longer exposed to such terrible mortifications. But the counsel of these actors did not prevail ; the good-natured part of the audience esteeming this opposition and uproar
to

to be a kind of cruel interlude, acted by these very gay gentlemen at the expence of the author, managers and actors, insisted upon the play having the benefit of a new trial. Against the next representation it was altered, to the general satisfaction of the public, and the author had the good fortune to obtain two benefits.

The principal parts in tragedy, during Mr. Garrick's absence, fell to the lot of Holland and Powell: had their judgment and taste been equal to their inclination to please, and, indeed, to their industry, they must have attained to a great degree of excellence. As these actors, who were inseparable friends, were confessedly the principal support of the theatre, as well as ornaments of it, and their loss considerably felt and lamented, it will, I hope, give some entertainment to the general reader, and it may perhaps afford matter of instruction and caution to future candidates for theatrical fame, to compare their several talents, to do justice to their merit, and to mark with candour their mistakes.

In

In person, they were both rather strongly than elegantly formed ; nor had they, by an early acquaintance with polite accomplishments, such as dancing and fencing, acquired an easy and disengaged deportment. Powell, though he was round shouldered, was not altogether ungraceful or awkward in his behaviour ; his countenance was open and manly, and strongly marked with an expressive brow. Holland, to speak in a very familiar phrase, was what we call a good-looking man ; he had an affectation of carrying his head either stiffly erect, or leaning towards one shoulder, which gave an awkwardness to his person, which was not otherwise ungenteel. They were both scholars of the same great master, and under his instruction both made considerable proficiency. One seldom merited more praise than being a tolerable copy of a fine original : the other seemed always to act from his own instruction. Powell was endowed with great sensibility, and on the stage indulged all the tender feelings of the soul to excess ; if ever he displeased, it was from a defect of that
critical

critical judgment, which is never the companion of an exuberant imagination.

Holland's ear was perfectly good ; he too had a moderate share of sensibility. By a constant attention to the voice, manner, and action of Mr. Garrick, he did not displease when he represented some of that performer's most favourite characters ; particularly Hamlet, Chamont, Hastings, and Tancred. In the last he manifested an uncommon degree of spirit.

Powell's Philaster greatly prepossessed the public in his favour ; the passions were touched by him in their genuine and native force, unattended with laborious art or theatrical trick, which so often diminish that power which they are employed to invigorate. Few actors have for these twenty years displayed such talents for tragic passion as Powell. It is less to be admired that he did not succeed in some parts, than that he should come off triumphantly in so many. Amongst his worst faults we may reckon an inclination sometimes to rant and bluster, and sometimes a propensity to whine
and

and blubber. There is no part of acting so difficult as that sort of feeling which is expressed by loud sorrow ; the tragic tear, if too wantonly shed, becomes ridiculous, and is apter to excite laughter in an audience than to awaken sensibility.

But to return to Holland : he was always most correct when in his travels ; when under the immediate eye and direction of his master, he was scrupulously exact ; and if he never rose to excellence, his endeavours to attain it merited approbation. It was his misfortune to be too much elated by applause, and he too soon thought he was able to walk alone ; in consequence of this, he became tumid in speech, and extravagant in action. He cried out at the top of the question, as our great poet expresses it ; instead of attending to the real situations of his character, he stretched his voice to an insufferable degree of loudness : but to Holland's praise it must be allowed that he represented some parts invariably well ; these were characters of art. His Iago and his Iachimo will be remembered with great pleasure. It will

will perhaps be expected, after having written so largely on their theatrical abilities, that I should speak of Powell and Holland as members of society.

Mr. Coleman, who honoured Powell with his friendship, has told the world, that the goodness of his heart exceeded his professional talents. It can truly be said, that both these players were extremely illiterate; they were either too attentive to the business of acting, or too negligent to bestow a reasonable time upon the cultivation of their minds. Had they followed the example of their teacher, they would have known that an acquaintance with the best authors, and the conversation of learned and polite men was absolutely necessary to improve their faculties for representation, and to render their conversation agreeable to their superiors. For want of this, the affability of Powell often sunk into insipid civility; and the spirit of Holland degenerated into vulgarity. A boisterous laugh, and the courage to say any thing to any body, with him too often supplied the place of humour and pleasantry.

pleasantry. His two admired patrons, Foote and Garrick, were men justly celebrated for genius; but when he retailed their bon mots, he made wild work; he rendered that pert vivacity which was originally sterling wit. But though Holland was by nature denied that shining talent which he aimed at, he had something to boast of which was more valuable; he had a mind exempt from all bad meaning, and was ever disposed to do acts of kindness. To sum up his character in a few words, he was an indefatigable, decent actor, and an honest, good-natured man.

Holland introduced Powell to Mr. Garrick. Though rivals in fame, these actors were friends through life, Powell purchased a share in the patent of Covent-garden theatre, and died at Bristol, July 3, 1769, of a raging fever. Holland did not survive him above a few months; he died December 7th following, of the small pox.

C H A P. XXXVI.

Mr. Garrick's return to England----The Sick Monkey--- Address to the public in a humorous prologue----Public opinion of his improvement in acting-----Fortune of several new plays-----Plain Dealer, Clandestine Marriage, Falstaff's Wedding, &c.

AFTER Mr. Garrick had been abroad about a year and half ; fatiated with the amusements and pleasures of the continent, he turned his thoughts towards his native country. But before he would set out for Calais, he was resolved to put in practice his usual method of preventing censure, and blunting the edge of ridicule by anticipation. For this purpose, before he left Paris, he sat down very seriously to write a kind of satirical poem on himself ; it was called the Sick Monkey, and the plan of it was, the talk or censure of other animals and reptiles on him and his travels, &c.

This

This poem he sent from Paris to a friend, with a request that he would get it printed, to prepare his reception in London. There is almost in every thing which Mr. Garrick has written, some mark of genius, some display of humour or some strokes of satire, some effusions of gay fancy, something which rewards the reader for the time spent in perusing it. But the Sick Monkey is amongst the few things he wrote, which one would wish not to remember; I believe it scarce ever urged the public curiosity to read it, for it died almost still-born. In short, he missed his aim; for having no enemies to fight with, his shafts spent themselves idly in the air; or, if any persons were really hurt by them, they were careful to hide their wounds.

He arrived in London about the latter end of April, 1765. The pleasure of the public for his return was universal. The king honoured his first appearance by commanding the play of *Much Ado about Nothing*. As soon as he was seen by the spectators, such loud and repeated applauses were given him

as

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as perhaps no actor ever before was welcomed with. The joy of the audience was expressed, not in the usual methods of clapping of hands and clattering of sticks, but in loud shouts and huzzas. He had prepared a facetious and well-timed introduction by way of prologue; it was so well adapted to his situation, and so full of that humour which was peculiar to himself, that it will be thought no improper entertainment in this place.

With doubt—joy—apprehension—almost dumb,

To face this awful court once more I come;

Left Benedick should suffer by my fear,

Before he enters, I myself am here.

I'm told, (what flattery to my heart!) that you

Have wish'd to see me, nay, have press'd it too:

Alas! 'twill prove another Much Ado.

I, like a boy who long had truant play'd,

No lessons got, no exercises made,

On bloody Monday takes his fearful stand,

And often eyes the birchen-scepter'd hand.

'Tis twice twelve years since first the stage I trod,

Enjoy'd your smiles, and felt the critic's rod.

VOL. II.

H

A very

A very nine-pin I, my stage-life through,
 Knock'd down by wits, set up again by you.
 In four and twenty years the spirits cool;
 Is it not long enough to play the fool?
 To prove it, let me but repeat
 What late I heard in passing through the street:
 A youth of parts, with ladies by his side,
 Thus cock'd his glass, and through it shot my pride;
'Tis he! by Jove, grown quite a clumsy fellow,
He's fit for nothing but a Punchinello.
 O yes! for comic scenes, Sir John — no farther;
 He's much too fat for battles, rapes, and murder.
 Worn with the service, you my faults will spare,
 And make allowance for the wear and tare.
 The Chelsea pensioner, who, rich in scars,
 Fights o'er in prattle all his former wars,
 Though past the service, may the young ones teach
 To march, present, to fire, and mount the breach.
 Should the drum beat to arms, at first he'll grieve
 For wooden leg, lost eye, and armless sleeve;
 Then cocks his hat, looks fierce, and swells his chest;
'Tis for my king! and, zounds, I'll do my best.

Whatever defects the critical eye may
 discover in reading this composition, they
 were

were all amply supplied by the actor. The archness of his look, the propriety of his action, and the general touch of humour and pleasantry which accompanied every line he spoke, drew from the audience loud and involuntary mirth, with the greatest applause which had ever been known in a theatre. Mr. Garrick was obliged to repeat this prologue for more than ten successive nights.

It was remarked by the most discerning judges, that our Roscius had, by visiting foreign theatres, greatly profited in his mode of representation : they observed, that his action, though alway spirited and proper, was become still more easy and unrestrained, that his deportment was more graceful, and his manner more elegant ; that he did not now appear so sollicitous for applause, as to disturb his own feelings, and lessen the pleasure of the audience ; that he had entirely dropt that anxious exertion at the close of a speech, both in look and behaviour, which is called by the comedians a clap-trap. That there was certainly an al-

teration as well as improvement in his style of acting, was noticed by the spectators in general.

A history of Mr. Garrick and his theatre will unavoidably comprehend an account of the most remarkable dramatic pieces acted under his auspices. The first comedy that was brought on the stage after he had resumed the management of it, was an alteration of Wycherly's Plain Dealer. The play, as it originally stood, was greatly celebrated for wit, character, and satire. James the Second was so delighted with it, that on seeing it acted, he was determined to make the author happy by paying his debts; but Wycherly's modesty prevented the king's generous intention, for he presented him with a schedule which did not contain one half of what he owed.

The licentious manners of Charles the Second's reign are so incorporated in this play, from the beginning to the end, that it was impossible to separate them from the ground plot, without pulling down the whole fabric. A man may as well expect to walk

walk the streets in the dress of that merry monarch's time without being stared at or ridiculed, as to think of mixing the language of these times with that of a hundred years past. Bickerstaff, the reviver, found the task of adapting the Plain Dealer's old wit to modern delicacy so difficult, that half the comedy was curtailed in the acting; however, the characters were so properly distributed, that the play had good success. Mrs. Clive, in the Widow Blackacre, found a proper subject to display her rich vein of humour; and Mrs. Yates, in the constant and tender Fidelio, acted with that modest diffidence and sweet simplicity, which are the chief characteristics of that amiable part. Mr. Yates is always sure to please; but neither his age nor his look were suited to Jerry Blackacre, a stripling of seventeen; an old woman of sixty might with equal propriety have attempted to represent a Miss in her Teens. But this impropriety I attribute rather to the managers than the player; they are unwilling to lose the name of an established actor in their bills. I have seen Hippisley,

when near fixty, act Daniel in Oroonoko, another boy about the age of Jerry Black-acre; the galleries it is true laughed, but the rest of the house gave such ridiculous misrepresentation a smile of contempt.

The Clandestine Marriage, acted soon after the Plain Dealer, was the joint labour of Mr. Coleman and Mr. Garrick. It has been observed, and I believe justly, that there has been no dramatic piece, since the days of Beaumont and Fletcher, written by two authors, in which wit, fancy and humour, are so happily blended, that the texture of the whole might well be supposed to be woven by one hand. The part of Lord Ogilby was principally written by Mr. Garrick; an enervated debauchee, affecting all the warmth and gaiety of youth, and making love to a fine young lady, is a character, if not odious, at least contemptible; but the skilful hand of the author, by giving him humane and generous principles, has not only saved him from our hatred, but has dignified him with a degree of approbation

bation which the man of a benevolent mind will always be sure to obtain.

This part Mr. Garrick intended to have acted himself; but apprehending, from his frequent attacks of the gout and stone and his advanced age, too much fatigue from the playing such an important character several nights successively, he resigned all thoughts of it. Mr. Coleman was not pleased with losing the performance of so great a master as Mr. Garrick in the play; but his ideas of Ogilby were faithfully transcribed by Mr. King, who in that difficult part far exceeded all that was hoped for or expected from a man of his great industry and merit. King's Ogilby is as singularly meritorious, as the part is happily discriminated from any other debauchee of rank.

The great run of the comedy, which was acted excellently in all its parts, soon reconciled Mr. Coleman to his disappointment. Mrs. Clive almost closed her long list of comic characters in Mrs. Heidelberg; for this was her last new character except

one, which was Lady Fuzz, in the Peep behind the Curtain.

Falstaff's Wedding, approved by the audience, and commended by all persons of taste as the only good imitation of Shakespeare's richest vein of humour, did not continue long upon the stage. Whether the acting of Falstaff was superior to the performer's abilities, or from what other cause the neglect of Falstaff's Wedding proceeded, I am not a judge ; but as we have in Mr. Henderson an admirable representer of the jolly knight, I hope Falstaff's Wedding will be restored to the public.

Mrs. Griffith's Double Mistake was condemned by the actors, but greatly approved by the public. This too was the case with Mr. Coleman's English Merchant: two principal players were greatly disappointed in meeting with the applauses, when they expected the hisses of the audience. Le Sage, in his Gil Blas, has deservedly censured the actors of Madrid (by whom he certainly meant those of Paris) for circulating unfavourable reports respecting the
merits

merits of dramatic pieces whilst in rehearsal : this conduct is not only absurd, but unjust. What should we say of a lawyer, who, after having been retained in a cause, should contrive to do all the mischief in his power to his client ? The conduct of these actors is exactly similar. The frequent proofs of mistaken judgment which the comedians have passed on the merit of plays before they were acted, should teach them to be more cautious, as well as more candid.

C H A P. XXXVII.

*Death of Mrs. Cibber-----Of Mr. Quin---
Some material transactions of their lives.*

NOT long after Mr. Garrick's return to England from his travels, the lovers of theatrical entertainment felt a very sensible diminution of their pleasure by the loss of Mrs. Cibber, who died in January 1766; and Mr. Quin, who had retired from the stage about sixteen years, and had chiefly resided at Bath, where he was greatly respected, and lived very jovially upon a very large annuity, paid the great debt of nature in March following.

Mrs. Cibber had been for a long time so subject to a disorder which was unfortunately unknown to her physician, and consequently treated improperly, that she was often prevented from giving the public that exquisite pleasure which she was sure to impart whenever she acted. Her health

was

was so precarious, and she was so subject to frequent relapses, that the news papers ranked her amongst the dead near three months sooner than her decease. About a month before her death the king commanded the comedy of the Provoked Wife; she was then indisposed, but was supposed to be recovering some degree of health; nothing could prevent her paying her duty to the king and queen by playing the part of Lady Brute, a character for which she had always discovered a most remarkable fondness. The acting this part when her health was so infirm, some people believed to be the immediate cause of her death; but the truth is, she had been strongly pressed to bathe in sea water, to which she had a most fixed aversion: however, she complied with the advice of a very eminent and skilful physician, and that compliance precipitated her death. Her indisposition was supposed to be a bilious cholic; but on her body being opened, it proved that her disorder arose from stomach-worms.

Mrs.

Mrs. Sufannah Maria Cibber was daughter to Mr. Arne, an upholsterer, who lived in King-street, Covent-garden, and was born much about the time the Indian kings, mentioned by the Spectator, were lodged in her father's house. When very young, her voice was so melodious, that her friends entertained great hopes of her becoming a very excellent finger; and I believe she acted, when she was about fourteen years of age, the part of Tom Thumb in the opera of that name, which was set to music by her brother, afterwards the celebrated Dr. Arne, and performed at the Little Theatre in the Hay-market. She certainly made some considerable progress in music, and was occasionally employed to sing at concerts. When she married Theophilus Cibber, his father, Colley Cibber, observed to his son, that tho' his wife's voice was very pleasing, and she had a good taste in music, yet, as she could never arrive at more than the rank of a second-rate performer, her income would be extremely limited. The old man added, that he had overheard her repeat a speech
from

from a tragedy, and he judged by her manner that her ear was good. Upon this she became a pupil to her father-in-law, and he publicly declared, that she took infinite pleasure in the instruction of so promising a genius. She was likewise certainly indebted to the lessons of Aaron Hill for part of her success in *Zara*; he gave her critical lessons upon every line of the part.

I have little more to add to that which I have already said of Mrs. Cibber's inimitable power of acting. Her great excellence consisted in that simplicity which needed no ornament; in that sensibility which despised all art: there was in her person little or no elegance; in her countenance a small share of beauty; but nature had given her such symmetry of form and fine expression of features, that she preserved all the appearance of youth long after she had reached to middle life. The harmony of her voice was as powerful as the animation of her look. In grief and tenderness her eyes looked as if they swam in tears; in rage and despair they seemed to
dart

dart flashes of fire. In spite of the unimportance of her figure, she maintained a dignity in her action and a grace in her step.

In conversation Mrs. Cibber was extremely agreeable; she was civil without constraint, and polite without affectation. She was not the mere actress; her accomplishments rendered her dear to persons of the first quality of her own sex. There was ever such an engaging decency in her manner, that notwithstanding a peculiarity of situation, she charmed and obliged all who approached her. She was a perfect judge of music, vocal and instrumental; and though she was not mistress of a voice requisite to a capital singer, yet her fine taste was sure to gain her the applause and admiration of the best judges. Though I do not vouch for the following story, yet it will serve to prove the public opinion of her musical expression: it has been said, that many years since when she sung in the oratorio of the Messiah at Dublin, a certain bishop was so affected with the extreme sensibility
of

of her manner, that he could not refrain from saying, *Woman! thy sins be forgiven thee!* Mrs. Cibber was buried privately in Westminster-abbey.

To Mr. Quin's various excellences in acting I have endeavoured to do equal justice; and in general we have authority to say, that to his various parts in comedy may be added no mean list of dignified characters in tragedy, where sentiment and gravity of action, and not passion, predominated. He had so happy an ear for music, and was so famous for singing with ease a common ballad or catch, that Gay was persuaded to offer him the part of Macheath, in the Beggar's Opera; but after a short trial of his abilities, Quin gave it up, from a despair of acquitting himself with that rakish gaiety and bold vigour of deportment necessary to the man who mixes with all sorts of company.

In the opera of Achilles, written by the same author, he acted Lycomedes, and acquitted himself in the singing of the songs in that part to the satisfaction of the audience.

ence. He recited with such energy and judgment, even in his younger years, that lord chancellor Cowper pronounced him one of the best speakers then living. Mr. Booth gave ample testimony to his elocution; for having seen him act the part of the Duke in *Measure for Measure*, he declined reviving the play and acting that character though pressed to it by Wilkes and Cibber: Booth declared he would never, if he could avoid it, hazard a comparison between himself and Quin. Mr. Hudson the painter assured me, that Quin always spoke of Booth with reverence and affection, and sometimes with tears in his eyes.

The education of this actor was not mean, though he never applied himself to the cultivation of the belles lettres. His language in conversation was nervous, and his bon mots had a force in them that secured their remembrance long after their transitory effusion. Bon mots depend so much on the spirit and look of him that utters them, that in the transcript of them their force is generally weakened, if not entirely lost.

However,

However, two of Quin's remarkable sayings, relating to the beheading of Charles the First, may perhaps be thought worthy of preserving : on a thirtieth of January, he said, that every king in Europe would rise with a crick in his neck. This has been attributed to Voltaire, but unjustly. Contending one day with a gentleman about the rectitude of taking away the life of Charles, Quin was asked by what law the judges deprived him of his life ? By all the laws, he replied, which he had left them.

An author, whose malignity of expression could not obscure the brightness of his genius, has in his life of Beaux Nash, inserted a letter, attributed by some unknown hand to Quin; but it is so full of bad spelling, as well as vulgar phrases, that it was impossible a man who was honoured with a command to teach the royal children to read the English language with propriety, could write such stuff. All the world was charmed with the elegant and powerful manner in which his Majesty pronounced his first speech from the throne. Quin was told of it; he heard of

the accomplishments of his royal pupil with pleasure, and said exultingly, I knew he would speak well, *for I taught the boy.*

He was celebrated for his great skill in reading the Paradise Lost, and once a subscription was talked of for his reciting passages of that book to a select number of gentlemen ; but this project his love of ease and good fellowship rendered abortive. Quin's company was sought after upon many accounts. In providing excellent and choice dishes for dinner, and high-flavoured wines, he was esteemed a perfect arbiter elegantiarum. His love of venison was excessive. The following epigram upon his fondness for this favourite dish was published about a year before he died :

Says epicure Quin, should the devil in Hell
In fishing for men take delight,
His hook bait with ven'son, I love it so well,
By G—, I am sure I should bite.

In entertaining his friends with sharp
and poignant wit, he had few equals. His
remarks

remarks upon persons and things were very acute, and often farcaſtical: but his great power of pleaſing in mixed company conſiſted in a variety of appoſite alluſions, ſhort ſtories, and diverting moralities; in all which he abounded. He loved Thompſon, and generously relieved him in his neceſſities. In conferring his kindneſs, he contrived, that the perſons obliged ſhould not feel any uneaſineſs from the manner of beſtowing it.

His acquaintance with Ryan was of fifty years ſtanding, and his friendſhip to him ſteady and inviolable. They had often been engaged, in their younger years, in adventurous frolics and dangerous hairbreadth eſcapes. Ryan had borne Quin on his back a hundred times, triumphantly, from many a drunken fray and noiſy riot. The former never ſpoke of the latter without the honeſt warmth of friendly remembrance. It was Quin's cuſtom to act Falſtaff for Ryan's benefit every year; and this practice he continued, till the loſs of his teeth rendered his ſpeech inarticulate; he

then swore he would never whistle Falstaff ; and, to make up the loss of his annual performance, he made his friend a present of five hundred pounds.

A close intimacy between Garrick and Quin could not be expected during the time their rivalry lasted ; I believe the latter very severely felt the superiority of the former. Before Mr. Garrick snatched the laurel from the brow of Quin, he was accounted sole monarch of the stage, nor could he bear his dethronement very patiently. But when all competition for pre-eminence had ceased by Quin's retiring from the stage, it was no difficult matter for them to unite in the bonds of friendship, because they could not but have an esteem for each other. The commencement of a warm profession of friendship between them, and which lasted till the death of Quin, as I was informed by an intimate acquaintance of both, began at Chatsworth, a seat of the duke of Devonshire, about twenty years since. They were his grace's old acquaintance and welcome guests, and were invited
to

to fill up the large cup of social happiness which the noble owner of the house proposed to enjoy in the company of his friends during some part of the summer season.

One evening Mr. Garrick and Mr. Quin were by chance left by themselves. After some overtures to conversation on both sides, Mr. Quin kindly asked after Mrs. Garrick's health, for which he expressed a very solicitous regard. Nothing could give the other greater pleasure than such interrogatories concerning one whom he so affectionately loved; they spent the remainder of the evening with mutual satisfaction.

Quin's visits at Hampton soon became as frequent as they were welcome: here he poured out willing and large libations at the shrine of Shakespeare; here he indulged in the dear delights of high-seasoned venison, delicious turtle, and excellent claret. Mr. Garrick would sometimes honour him with the title of his butler, and send him on a most agreeable errand, to search for bottles of choice Burgundy.

Quin was an honest voluptuary, who openly professed his enjoyment of the good things of this world; and Mr. Garrick, in the following happy lines, has celebrated his epicurism.

A Soliloquy by Mr. Quin, upon surveying the body of duke Humphry, in the Abbey Church of St. Albans.

I.

A plague on Egypt's arts, I say;
 Embalm the dead! on senseless clay
 Rich wines and spices waste!
 Like sturgeon, or like brawn, shall I,
 Bound in a precious pickle, lie,
 Which I can never taste!

II.

Let me embalm this flesh of mine
 With turtle fat and Bourdeaux wine,
 And spoil th' Egyptian trade;
 Than good duke Humphry happier I,
 Embalm'd alive; old Quin shall die
 A mummy ready made.

Epitaph

Epitaph on Mr. Quin by Mr. Garrick,
engraved upon his monument in the
Abbey Church at Bath.

That tongue which set the table on a roar,
And charm'd the public ear, is heard no more :
Clos'd are those eyes, the harbingers of wit,
Which spake before the tongue what Shakspeare
writ :

Cold is that hand, which, living, was stretch'd forth
At Friendship's call, to succour modest worth.
Here lies James Quin—Deign, reader, to be taught,
Whate'er thy strength of body, force of thought ;
In Nature's happiest mould however cast,
To this complexion thou must come at last.

C H A P. XXXVIII.

Mr. Garrick's Country Girl---Unhappy in the subject, and choice of the actresses----His Cymon, and Christmas Tale----Earl of Warwick-----Mrs. Yates's Margaret of Anjou---Dido---Widow'd Wife--Zenobia.

AFTER his return from his foreign tour, Mr. Garrick was not so constantly employed as formerly in the fatigues of acting; he had now more leisure to apply himself to writing; and in a few months his muse produced the *Country Girl*, a comedy, and the dramatic romance of *Cymon*.

The *Country Girl* was borrowed from the most licentious play in the English language, the *Country Wife* of Wycherley; in which there is to be found a more genuine representation of the loose manners, obscene language and dissolute practices of Charles the Second's reign, than in any other play whatsoever. The comedy, notwithstanding,

withstanding, is not deficient in wit, humour, or character. The decency of the French stage, and the profligacy of our own, may be marked out in this æra; for the *Country Wife* was evidently taken from the *L'ecole des Femmes* of Moliere, a comedy written upon the most simple plan, and worked up with wonderful skill, by that excellent comedian.

Great part of the *Country Girl* is entirely new-written by Mr. Garrick, who preserved some of the most interesting scenes of the old play, but he absolutely changed the plot, and new-modelled the dialogue; to the characters he also gave a more modern gloss. Notwithstanding he took infinite pains to adapt the whole of his play to the present taste, he could not entirely please the palate of the audience; he was unhappy in the choice of his actresses to personate the *Country Girl*; Miss Reynolds, though not deficient in merit, neither in age, person, or look, could pretend to be the innocent and simple lass of sixteen. The last scene of the play was an improvement on the original;

original; the rage and disappointment of an old debauchee who finds himself outwitted by a raw country girl, was well conceived by the writer, and very naturally felt by the actor. Mr. Holland, in the part of Moody, rose above his usual style in playing.

Cymon was termed by the author a dramatic romance, a title unknown to our stage. I do not mean to question its propriety; it seems an attempt to reconcile two things very opposite, pastoral life and magical enchantment; it is the story of Cymon and Iphigenia greatly extended, and heightened by incantation.

Shakespeare was the first dramatic writer who perfectly understood the force of theatrical effect: he knew that the eye must be fed, as well as the ear and the understanding: many of his plays might be represented in pantomime. He saw that show and magnificence were essential requisites; and, where-ever his plot would bear it, he has taken effectual care to make his exhibition of dress, machinery, dance, and

and every decoration, as striking to the sight as the then mean state of our theatres would permit. Of this great art of combining fable, character, passion and sentiment, with splendor and shew, Ben Johnson was either entirely ignorant, or disdained the use of it; we find him continually in his prologues, inductions, and other parts of his dramas, upbraiding Shakespeare with stealing the applause of an audience by such low artifices.

Mr. Garrick, in his *Cymon* and the *Christmas Tale*, embraced every occasion to treat the audience with fine scenes, splendid dresses, brisk music, lively dances, and all the ornaments which his plots would admit. The scene of the several orders of chivalry in *Cymon* was new, and finely imagined; and the whole piece is happily varied, very lively and entertaining. The *Christmas Tale* was fit only to be exhibited to a holiday audience. However, he gained his ends by both these pieces; they were acted frequently to crowded houses: *Cymon* continues a favourite of the public, but the *Christmas Tale* is absolutely forgotten.

The

The Earl of Warwick, a tragedy, taken from a play of Monsieur de Le Harpe, was acted much about the same time.

The original author has led his translator into one capital error. An event of which every reader of history is well informed, should not be altered for the sake of any purpose whatsoever; it is a glaring error, for which all the beauties of style and character cannot compensate. That the famous Earl of Warwick, *the raiser up and puller down of kings*, as Shakespeare styles him, died in the battle of Barnet, fighting for king Henry the Sixth against Edward the Fourth, is a fact as well known as that Richard the Third was killed in Bosworth Field, or that Henry the Eighth was our first king who threw off the papal yoke. Setting aside this fault, the play deserves much commendation: the characters of Edward and Warwick are justly and powerfully delineated; and that unhappy, but great woman, Margaret of Anjou, in this tragedy, deserves our pity, and commands our admiration. The scenes between the
sovereign

sovereign and subject, Edward and Warwick, are managed with that nice skill which such interviews demand; and the arguments for prerogative and privilege are discussed with a knowledge and propriety which manifest the author's acquaintance with so difficult a subject.

There was something singular in the preparing this play for the stage. Powell was at first extremely well satisfied with his part of Edward; and Holland thought he should bear away the palm from every actor in the tragedy, in the part of Warwick.

Mrs. Yates had well weighed, and knew perfectly the value of Queen Margaret; but seemed to be extremely diffident of its power to attract the regard of an audience, when opposed to the splendor of Edward, or the popularity of Warwick. The heroes, at rehearsal, threw out all their force of elocution; Mrs. Yates, like an experienced general, concealed her powers till the time of employing it; she so far deceived these gentlemen, that they affected to pity her in being obliged to act a part of such small importance.

But

But when the play was acted, notwithstanding all the dazzling shew of Edward's grandeur, and Warwick's popular speeches, Mrs. Yates acted so characteristically, displayed such grandeur of mind, pride of behaviour, resentment of injury, and dignity of action, that the other characters seemed to be totally eclipsed; the audience was full of admiration of the unfortunate queen, who, in her last scene, seemed to triumph over all her enemies.

Dido, a tragedy, written by Mr. Reed, a rope-maker, was acted for the benefit of Mr. Holland. It was thought an unusual favour to give the first night of a play to an actor; nor does the public know why Dido was not played more than three nights. If the managers pleaded that the season was too far advanced to act it successfully, as was usual in other new pieces, it might have been resumed the next winter; and that it merited such favour, if it really was a favour, may be presumed from the applause bestowed upon it. The author is certainly a man of genius; his farce of
the

the Register Office contains a variety of characters aptly drawn; and it has accordingly met with great and deserved approbation.

The Widowed Wife, a comedy, by Dr. Kenrick, was acted with applause fourteen nights, and resumed the season following. The merit of the piece was considerable, from a variety of new characters, as well as pointed satire, and just observations on the several fashionable vices of the times. The part of the Widowed Wife, excellently performed by Mrs. Pritchard, was the last new character which she acted.

To no author has the stage, for almost thirty years, been more obliged, than to Mr. Murphy. Equally happy in a rich and pleasant vein for comedy, and a pathetic and noble style for tragedy, he has alternately, and indeed successfully, delighted the public with his Melpomene and Thalia; with his All in the Wrong, the Citizen, the Way to Keep Him, Know Your Own Mind; with the Orphan of China, Zenobia, Alzuma, and the Grecian Daughter.

His *Zenobia* was acted soon after the *False Delicacy* of Hugh Kelly. The author emancipated himself from the slavish and hackneyed custom of dedicating a play to persons of high rank, "to wealthy merchants or rich commissaries." He surprised Mrs. Barry, then Mrs. Dancer, who acted *Zenobia*, with a very handsome address; and inscribed to her a play which, by her inimitable action, he says, was saved from the critics. He, however, in the same epistle, contrives to shew his gratitude to Mr. Garrick for his politeness and assiduity in preparing his tragedy for the stage, and his taste in the decoration of it; to Mr. Barry, for the fine exertion of his powers; but Mrs. Dancer's powerful address to snatch a grace beyond the reach of art, and her multiplied beauties of representation, he compares to Rinaldo's sword in Tasso's *Jerusalem*, which to a whole army appears to be three swords.

Zenobia is, in my opinion, the most affecting in story, as well as the most judicious in its plan, of all our author's tragedies.

He

He had rivals to encounter, and difficulties to overcome, which were not easily surmounted. The *Radamiste* of Crebillon is universally said to be his master-piece; and the harmonious, pathetic, and moral *Metastasio*, has treated the same subject with his usual grace and dignity.

Notwithstanding this, the English *Zenobia* claims all the praise which the most judicious, as well as candid critic can give; the language never soars above that proper elevation of style which the subject and characters require; the situations are the most dramatic of any modern tragedy; and the passions are all derived from those eternal ties which bind human nature; from affections which spring from connubial and parental bonds, and involve the dearest interests of father, mother, son, brother, lover and friend. The catastrophe is not a trick of the stage; no, it is truly striking, and formed on the distress of the principal character, who nobly exerts herself to save her husband and child by her own certain death.

In the strong expression of conflicting passions, and in the feeling of complicated distress, no actor can be named with Barry. Radamistus died with him.

However prodigal of praise the author was in his address to Mrs. Dancer, every spectator of Zenobia must confess, that it was not possible to say too much of her inimitable performance. Mrs. Barry knows perfectly well the ready avenues to the heart, and can rouse every latent spring of human feeling; she, if any actress can, will force lamentations from the obdurate, and sensibility from the brutal. But if no author was ever more indebted to an actress than Mr. Murphy was to Mrs. Barry, it must be allowed, that no actress could well be more obliged to a writer for situations to display her abilities than she was to him in Zenobia.

There is no character so odious to an audience as the dignified villain, the bloody and remorseless tyrant. Pharsamenes scarce receives any impressions of softness from that passion which, of all others, contributes most to humanize the most
savage

savage breast; love has no other effect on him than to render him more cruel and boisterous.

Mr. Aikin, in drawing his Pharsamenes, very judiciously threw part of his fierceness into shade: he was deservedly praised for supporting the spirit of the character, without rendering it glaringly disgusting.

CHAP. XXXIX.

Hugh Kelly---An author who writes against the players----Supposed the first English author of sentimental comedy---His False Delicacy---Word to the Wise---Clementina, and School for Lovers---His death.

FALSE Delicacy, a play of Mr. Kelly, was acted, in order of time, before Zenobia; but as I shall confine what I have to say of this writer to one chapter, I was unwilling to interrupt the narrative by keeping too closely to chronology.

From Mr. Kelly's first literary essays so little of entertainment was promised, that his rapid progress in fame, and great success in dramatic poetry, may be deemed incredible.

Mr. Hugh Kelly served his apprenticeship in Dublin to a stay-maker; but finding no sufficient encouragement to continue in that trade, and having no inclination to tie himself down to so mean an occupation, he

he arrived in London, about the year 1763, in very low circumstances. He conceived that the surest method to get employment as an author, would be to signalize himself by writing short essays and paragraphs in the news-papers. He constantly paid attendance at a public house within a few doors of Drury-lane theatre; in this place he learned from the lowest retainers of the stage the characters of the actors, or rather, he gleaned the idle and insignificant remarks which were made on their conduct in private life, as well as their professional merit. From what he gained in such company, and from such information, he treated the players with great and unexampled severity in the public prints: he seemed indeed to think himself under no restraint, when he attacked either their morals as men, or their abilities as actors; he rather loaded them with reproaches than criticised their errors: in short, he descended to the lowest abuse of language. Some of them smiled at his attacks, and treated him as one below their notice; others threatened loudly to chastise

him; and Kelly was at last reduced to the necessity of wearing a sword, to protect himself from the resentment which he apprehended, and had provoked. In imitation of Churchill's *Rosciad*, he wrote a poem, called *Thespis*, in the first part of which he outrageously attacked Mrs. Clive, Mrs. Dancer, and Mr. Moody; at the same time, from the bias of his connections, he poured forth lavish encomiums upon others, and recorded the merits of Ackman, and the lowest of the comedians.

He was now become the scourge of the theatre; and his face in the pit was supposed to be as terrible to the players as Churchill's had been formerly.

But, at the time he was prosecuting this illiberal practice of stage scandal, he was busy in preparing a new comedy upon the sentimental plan, and of this species in dramatic writing he was said to be the first English writer. As soon as he had brought it into form, he presented it to Mr. Garrick. The manager perused it; and observing in it some marks of genius, he kindly pointed
out

out to him such parts of the play as stood in need of retouching or heightening; he besides helped him to curtail all such superfluous scenes as an author unacquainted with the stage would insensibly, in the warmth of his fancy, produce.

When the play was ready for rehearsal, he consulted Mr. Garrick about distributing the parts: he now, to his great regret, found his error in making so free with those persons whose assistance was absolutely necessary to him, and without whose consent his play could not be acted. Here too Mr. Garrick befriended him; he prevailed upon Mrs. Dancer to sacrifice her resentment to the interest of the community. To Mrs. Clive, I fancy, he had not the courage to make any application; and indeed Kelly had treated this great actress with such rudeness, and affectation of contempt, that it was impossible to hope she could be brought into any temper with him. No intreaty of the manager, or submission of the author, could, I believe, prevail on Moody to be reconciled to any terms of accommodation.

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False Delicacy was acted with much applause, and continued to draw the public to the theatre near twenty nights successively. Mr. Garrick supplied the author with prologue and epilogue, which were spoken with great humour by Mr. King and Mrs. Dancer. The critics attacked it as a dull sentimental sermon, but surely not altogether with reason. The plot contains variety of interesting action; and though many of the sentiments have in them a grave cast, the dialogue in general is gay and sprightly; some of the characters are marked with passion, others distinguished by humour. The piece is interesting, moral and entertaining, and deserved encouragement.

The author, who had thus emerged from obscurity into sunshine, felt uncommon pleasure at this sudden reverse of his circumstances. When he went to the play-house treasury to receive the profits of his first third night, which amounted to 150*l*. not having ever seen so much money of his own before, he was all astonishment; he put the money into his pocket as fast as he could,

could, and ran home to his wife in a rapture, to communicate to her the pleasure he had enjoyed.

The mind of Kelly was naturally active, and turned to industry. His great success in his first stage attempt did not prevent his thinking of more serious business; after having applied himself for some time closely to the study of the law, he was called to the bar, and pleaded causes. He likewise undertook the care of a news-paper, and stood forth a very staunch vindicator of public measures. Not content with that proof of his zeal for administration, he attacked with great warmth, and keenness of satire, some say indeed with illiberal abuse, several gentlemen who had distinguished themselves as leading patriots.

The consequence of his espousing the ministerial cause, though I believe it passed not unrewarded by government, was very disagreeable to him in his capacity of a dramatic writer.

His next comedy, called *A Word to the Wife*, not all the friendship and skill of
the

the manager, with the assistance of a numerous acquaintance, could support against an enraged popular party, who were determined, at all events, to crush it. This catastrophe is the more to be lamented, as this comedy is one of his most judicious compositions. He was soon after reduced to the necessity of sheltering himself under the patronage of friends, by begging others to adopt his dramatic productions. His tragedy of Clementina Mr. Colman, with great good nature, took under his protection, and pushed its acting as far as the merit of the piece would possibly admit. The plot of that play is wild and romantic; and the language, though sometimes impressed with sentiment, and raised by passion, is generally tame and prosaic. The tragedy owed its success to the animated action of Mrs. Yates.

The School for Wives was brought on the stage by Mr. Addington, who kindly lent his name to this offspring of Kelly: he as generously renounced any pretension to the merit of writing that comedy, when
it

it was no longer necessary to conceal the name of the real author.

It may be justly said of Kelly, that no man ever profited more by a sudden change of fortune in his favour; prosperity caused an immediate and remarkable alteration in his whole conduct; from a low, petulant, absurd, and ill-bred censurer, he was transformed to the humane, affable, good-natured, well-bred man. His conversation in general was lively and agreeable; he had an uncommon stock of ready language; and though not deeply read, what he said was generally worthy of attention. He sometimes, indeed, from an attempt to assume uncommon politeness, and a superabundance of benevolence, became rather tiresome and luscious in his compliments.

The fate of his comedies was as uncommon as his sudden elevation from distress to affluence was surprising.

The False Delicacy was the favourite comedy of the times, and continued, for a few years, to draw multitudes to its representation. An unexpected dash of Foote's
fatire

fatire laid that play, and all sentimental comedy, in the dust.

Piety in Pattens was as a charm as powerful in demolishing that species of comedy which the French term *larmoyante*, as the Rehearsal was in banishing the rants and bombast of Dryden and other writers.

Mr. Kelly died, in the 38th year of his age, of an abscess formed in his side, which was said to be owing to his constant application to business, and to a sedentary life; and perhaps too it might proceed, in some measure, from too great indulgence in his manner of living.

C H A P. XL.

*Dr. Goldsmith---Sollicits Mr. Garrick for his
vote and interest----Offers him the play of
The Good-Natured Man----Their contest
about it ---- Some farther account of the
doctor --- His envy, malice, absurdity, good-
nature, generosity, and benevolence---Dies.*

DR. Goldsmith having tried his genius in several modes of writing, in essays, in descriptive poetry and history; was advised to apply himself to that species of writing which is said to have been long the most fruitful in the courts of Parnassus. The writer of plays has been ever supposed to pursue the quickest road to the temple of Plutus.

The doctor was a perfect Heteroclite, an inexplicable existence in creation; such a compound of absurdity, envy and malice, contrasted with the opposite virtues of kindness, generosity, and benevolence, that he might be said to consist of two distinct souls, and influenced by the agency of a good and bad spirit.

The

The first knowledge Mr. Garrick had of his abilities, was from an attack upon him by Goldsmith, when he was but a very young author, in a book called the Present State of Learning. Amongst other abuses, (for the doctor loved to dwell upon grievances) he took notice of the behaviour of managers to authors; this must surely have proceeded from the most generous principles of reforming what was amiss for the benefit of others, for the doctor at that time had not the most distant view of commencing dramatic author.

Little did Goldsmith imagine he should one day be obliged to ask a favour from the director of a playhouse: however, when the office of secretary to the Society of Arts and Sciences became vacant, the doctor was persuaded to offer himself a candidate. He was told that Mr. Garrick was a leading member of that learned body, and his interest and recommendation would be of consequence to enforce his pretensions.

He waited upon the manager, and, in few words, requested his vote and interest.

Mr.

Mr. Garrick could not avoid observing to him, that it was impossible he could lay claim to any recommendation from him, as he had taken pains to deprive himself of his assistance by an unprovoked attack upon his management of the theatre, in his State of Learning. Goldsmith, instead of making an apology for his conduct either from misinformation or misconception, bluntly replied, In truth he had spoken his mind, and believed what he said was very right. The manager dismissed him with civility, and Goldsmith lost the office by a very great majority, who voted in favour of Dr. Chamberlayne.

The doctor's reputation, which was daily increasing from a variety of successful labours, was at length lifted so high, that he escaped from indigence and obscurity to competence and fame.

The first man of the age, one, who, from the extensiveness of his genius and benevolence of his mind, is superior to the little envy and mean jealousy which adhere so closely to most authors, and especially to those of equivocal merit, took pleasure in introducing
Dr.

Dr. Goldsmith to his intimate friends, persons of eminent rank and distinguished abilities. The doctor's conversation did by no means correspond with the idea formed of him from his writings.

The dutchess of Rambouillet, who was charmed with the tragedies of Corneille, wished to have so great an author amongst her constant visitors, expecting infinite entertainment from the writer of the *Cid*, the *Horace*, and *Cinna*. But the poet lost himself in society; he held no rank with the beaux esprits who met at the hotel of this celebrated lady; his conversation was dry, unpleasant, and what the French call *distract*. So Dr. Goldsmith appeared in company to have no spark of that genius which shone forth so brightly in his writings; his address was awkward, his manner uncouth, his language unpolished, his elocution was continually interrupted by disagreeable hesitation, and he was always unhappy if the conversation did not turn upon himself.

To manifest his intrepidity in argument, he would generously espouse the worst side
of

of the question, and almost always left it weaker than he found it. His jealousy fixed a perpetual ridicule on his character, for he was emulous of every thing and every body. He went with some friends to see the entertainment of the Fantaccini, whose uncommon agility and quick evolutions were much commended. The doctor was asked how he liked these automats; he replied, he was surpris'd at the applause bestowed on the little insignificant creatures, for he could have performed their exercises much better himself. When his great literary friend was much commended in his hearing, he could not restrain his uneasiness, but exclaimed, in a kind of agony, "No more, I desire you; you harrow up my soul!" More absurd stories may be recorded of Goldsmith than of any man; his absence of mind would not permit him to attend to time, place, or company. When at the table of a nobleman of high rank and great accomplishments, one to whom England stands indebted in many obligations, and it is hoped that he

will more and more increase the debt by his continual and vigorous efforts to secure her happiness ; to this great man Goldsmith observed, that he was called by the name of Malagrida ; “ but I protest and vow to your lordship, I can’t conceive for what reason, for Malagrida was an honest man.”

When the doctor had finished his comedy of the Good-natured Man, he was advised to offer it to Mr. Garrick. The manager was fully conscious of his merit, and perhaps more ostentatious of his abilities to serve a dramatic author, than became a man of his prudence : Goldsmith was, on his side, as fully persuaded of his own importance and independent greatness. Mr. Garrick, who had been so long treated with the complimentary language paid to a successful patentee and admired actor, expected that the writer would esteem the patronage of his play as a favour ; Goldsmith rejected all ideas of kindness in a bargain that was intended to be of mutual advantage to both ; and in this he was certainly justifiable ; Mr. Garrick could reasonably

sonably expect no thanks for the acting a new play, which he would have rejected, if he had not been convinced it would have amply rewarded his pains and expence. I believe the manager was willing to accept the play, but he wished to be courted to it; and the doctor was not disposed to purchase his friendship by the resignation of his sincerity. He then applied to Mr. Colman, who accepted his comedy without any hesitation.

The Good-natured Man bears strong marks of that happy originality which distinguishes the writings of Dr. Goldsmith. Two characters in this comedy were absolutely unknown before to the English stage; a man who boasts an intimacy with persons of high rank whom he never saw, and another who is almost always lamenting misfortunes he never knew. Croaker is as strongly designed, and as highly finished a portrait of a discontented man, of one who disturbs every happiness he possesses, from apprehension of distant evil, as any character of Congreve, or any other of our

English dramatists. Shuter acted Croaker with that warm glee of fancy, and genuine flow of humour, that always accompanied his best and most animated performances. The great applause and profit which attended the acting of this comedy, contributed to render the author more important in his own eyes, and in the opinion of the public. But no good fortune could make Goldsmith discreet, nor any increase of fame diminish his envy, or cure the intractability of his temper. John Home was taught by experience, that his high connections were of no avail with the public; and that courtly approbation was no protection from popular dislike; he therefore veiled himself in obscurity, and prevailed upon a young gentleman, his friend, to adopt his play of the Fatal Discovery; but the foster-father performed his assumed character so awkwardly at the rehearsal of this tragedy, that it was soon discovered that the child was not his own; for he submitted to have the piece altered, lopped, and corrected, with such tranquillity of temper, as the real
parent

parent could not have assumed. Of the true author, Goldsmith by chance found out the knowledge; and when the play was announced to the public, it will hardly be credited, that this man of benevolence, for such he really was, endeavoured to muster a party to condemn it; alledging this cogent reason for the proceeding, that such fellows ought not to be encouraged. And this is one strong instance of the truth of John Gay's observation, that

Wits are game-cocks to one another:

No author ever lov'd a brother.

The tragedy of the Countess of Salisbury, a play in which Mr. Barry and Mrs. Dancer displayed great powers of acting, was in a good degree of favour with the town. This was a crime sufficient to rouse the indignation of Goldsmith, who issued forth to see it with a determined resolution to consign the play to perdition. He sat out four acts of the Countess of Salisbury with great calmness and seeming temper; but as the plot thickened, and his apprehension began

to be terrified with the ideas of blood and slaughter, he got up in a great hurry, saying, loud enough to be heard, *Brownrig! Brownrig! by G--*.

Goldsmith never wanted literary employment; the booksellers understood the value of his name, and did all they could to excite his industry; and it cannot be denied that they rewarded his labours generously: in a few years he wrote three histories of England; the first in two pocket volumes in letters, and another in four volumes octavo; the first an elegant summary of British transactions; and the other, an excellent abridgement of Hume, and other copious historians. These books are in every body's hands. The last is a short contraction of the 4 vols. in one duodecimo. For writing these books he obtained 750 or 800*l*.

His squabbles with booksellers and publishers were innumerable; his appetites and passions were craving and violent; he loved variety of pleasures, but could not devote himself to industry long enough to purchase them by his writings: upon every emergency

gency half a dozen projects would present themselves to his mind; these he communicated to the men who were to advance money on the reputation of the author; but the money was generally spent long before the new work was half finished, or perhaps before it was commenced. This circumstance naturally produced reproach from one side, which was returned, sometimes with fair promises, often with anger and vehemence, on the other. After much and disagreeable altercation, one bookseller desired to refer the matter in dispute to the doctor's learned friend, a man of known integrity, and one who would favour no cause but that of justice and truth; Goldsmith consented, and was enraged to find that one author should have so little feeling for another, as to determine a dispute to his disadvantage, in favour of a poultry tradesman.

His love of gaming involved him in many perplexing difficulties, and a thousand anxieties; and yet he had not the resolution to abandon a practice for which his impa-

tience of temper and great unskilfulness rendered him totally unqualified.

Though Mr. Garrick did not act his comedy of *She Stoops to Conquer*, yet, as he was then upon very friendly terms with the author, he presented him with a very humorous prologue, well accommodated to the occasion of reviving fancy, wit, gaiety, humour, incident and character, in the place of sentiment and moral preachments.

Woodward spoke this whimsical address in mourning, and lamented pathetically over poor dying Comedy. To her he says,

———A mawkish drab of spurious breed,
Who deals in *sentimentals*, will succeed.

In the close of the prologue, the doctor is recommended as a fit person to revive poor drooping Thalia with the compliment which hinted, I imagine, at some public transaction, of not dealing in poisonous drugs.

She Stoops to Conquer, notwithstanding many improbabilities in the œconomy of the plot, several farcical situations, and some
cha-

characters which are rather exaggerated, is a lively and faithful representation of nature; genius presides over every scene of this play; the characters are either new, or varied improvements from other plays.

Marlow has a slight resemblance of Charles in the Fop's Fortune, and something more of Lord Hardy in Steele's Funeral; and yet, with a few shades of these parts, he is discriminated from both. Tony Lumpkin is a vigorous improvement of Humphry Gubbins, and a more diverting picture of ignorance, rusticity and obstinacy; Hardcastle, his wife and daughter, I think, are absolutely new: the language is easy and characteristical; the manners of the times are slightly, but faithfully, represented; the satire is not ostentatiously displayed, but incidentally involved in the business of the play; and the suspense of the audience is artfully kept up to the last. This comedy was very well acted; Lewis played Marlow with the ease of a gentleman; Hardcastle and Tony Lumpkin were supported in a masterly style by Shuter and Quick. Mrs. Green, in Mrs. Hardcastle, maintained

maintained her just title to one of the best comic actresses of the age.

Though the money gained by this play amounted to a considerable sum; more especially so, to a man who had been educated in straits and trained in adversity; yet his necessities soon became as craving as ever: to relieve them, he undertook a new history of Greece; and a book of animals, called the History of Animated Nature. The first was to him an easy task; but as he was entirely unacquainted with the world of animals, his friends were anxious for the success of his undertaking. Notwithstanding his utter ignorance of the subject, he has composed one of the pleasantest and most instructive books in our language; I mean, not only useful to young minds, but entertaining to those who understand the animal creation.

Every thing of Goldsmith seems to bear the magical touch of an enchanter; no man took less pains, and yet produced so powerful an effect: the great beauty of his composition consists in a clear, copious, and expressive style.

Goldsmith's

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Goldsmith's last work was his poem called *Retaliation*, which the historian of his life says was written for his own amusement, and that of his friends, who were the subject of it. That he did not live to finish it, is to be lamented, for it is supposed he would have introduced more characters. What he has left is so perfect in its kind, that it stands not in need of revision.

In no part of his works has this author discovered a more nice and critical discernment, or a more perfect knowledge of human nature, than in this poem; with wonderful art he has traced all the leading features of his several portraits, and given with truth the characteristical peculiarities of each; no man is lampooned, and no man is flattered.

The occasion, we are told, to which we owe this admirable poem, was a circumstance of festivity. The literary society to which he belonged proposed to write epitaphs on the doctor; Mr. Garrick, one of the members, wrote the following fable of Jupiter and Mercury, to provoke Goldsmith to a retaliation.

Jupiter

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JUPITER and MERCURY. A Fable.

Here, Hermes, says Jove, who with nectar was
mellow,

Go fetch me some clay — I will make an odd fellow.
Right and wrong shall be jumbled, much gold and some
dross;

Without cause be he pleas'd, without cause be he cross;
Be sure as I work to throw in contradictions;
A great lover of truth, yet a mind turn'd to fictions.
Now mix these ingredients, which warm'd in the bak-
ing,

Turn to learning and gaming, religion and raking;
With the love of a wench, let his writings be chaste,
Tip his tongue with strange matter, his pen with fine
taste.

That the rake and the poet o'er all may prevail,
Set fire to his head, and set fire to his tail.
For the joy of each sex on the world I'll bestow it,
This scholar, rake, christian, dupe, gamester, and
poet.

Tho' a mixture so odd, he shall merit great fame,
And among brother mortals be Goldsmith his name.
When on earth this strange meteor no more shall ap-
pear,

You, Hermes, shall fetch him, to make us sport here.

There

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There never was surely a finer picture, at full length, given to the world, than this warm character of the incomprehensible and heterogeneous doctor.

And here Dr. Goldsmith's portrait of Mr. Garrick will be introduced with propriety.

Here lies David Garrick, describe me who can;
An abridgement of all that was pleasant in man.
As an actor, confess'd, without rival to shine;
As a wit, if not first, in the very first line:
Yet, with talents like these, and an excellent heart,
The man had his failings, a dupe to his art.
Like an ill-judging beauty, his colours he spread,
And be-plaister'd with rouge his own natural red:
On the stage he was natural, simple, affecting;
'Twas only that when he was off he was acting.
With no reason on earth to go out of his way,
He turn'd and he varied full ten times a day;
Though secure of our hearts, yet confoundedly sick,
If they were not his own by finessing and trick.
He cast off his friends like a huntsman his pack,
For he knew, when he pleas'd, he could whistle them
back.

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Of praise a mere glutton, he swallow'd what came,
 And the puff of a dunce he mistook it for fame;
 'Till his relish grown callous, almost to disease;
 Who pepper'd the highest was surest to please.
 But let us be candid, and speak out our mind;
 If dunces applauded he paid them in kind,
 Ye Kenricks, ye Kellys, and Woodfalls, so grave,
 What a commerce was yours, while you got and you
 gave!
 How did Grub-street re-echo the shouts that you
 rais'd,
 While he was be-Roscius'd, and you were be-prais'd?
 But peace to his spirit, where-ever it flies,
 To act as an angel, and mix with the skies;
 Those poets who owe their best fame to his skill,
 Shall still be his flatterers, go where he will:
 Old Shakespeare receive him with praise and with love,
 And Beaumonts and Bens be his Kellys above.

The sum of all which can be said for and
 against Mr. Garrick, some people think
 may be found in these lines of Goldsmith.
 That the person upon whom they were
 written was displeased with some strokes of
 this character, may be gathered from the
 following

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following jeu d'esprit which Mr. Garrick wrote on the Retaliation, soon after it had been produced to the society.

Are these the choice dishes the doctor has sent us ?

Is this the great poet whose works so content us ?

This Goldsmith's fine feast, who has written fine
books ?

Heav'n sends us good meat, but the devil sends cooks.

Candour must own, that Mr. Garrick, in his verses on Goldsmith, was gentle in describing the subject, as well as delicate in the choice of his expressions ; but that Garrick's features in the Retaliation are somewhat exaggerated.

Not long before his death, he had formed a design of publishing an Encyclopedia, or an Universal Dictionary of Arts and Sciences ; a prospectus of which he printed and sent to his friends, many of whom had promised to furnish him with articles on different subjects ; and, amongst the rest, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Dr. Johnson, and Mr. Garrick. His expectations from any
new-

new-conceived projects were generally very sanguine; but from so extensive a plan his hopes of gain had lifted up his thoughts to an extraordinary height.

The bookfellers, notwithstanding they had a high opinion of his abilities, yet were startled at the bulk, importance, and expence of so great an undertaking, the weight of which was to depend upon the industry of a man with whose indolence of temper and method of procrastination they had long been acquainted: the coldness with which they met his proposals was lamented by the doctor to the hour of his death, which seems to have been accelerated by a neglect of his health, occasioned by continual vexation of mind, arising from his involved circumstances. Death, I really believe, was welcome to a man of his great sensibility. The chief materials which composed Goldsmith's character are before the reader; but as I have with great freedom exposed his faults, I should not have dwelt so minutely upon them, if I had not been conscious, that upon a just balance of his
good

good and bad qualities, the former would far outweigh the latter.

Goldsmith was so sincere a man, that he could not conceal what was uppermost in his mind : so far from desiring to appear in the eye of the world to the best advantage, he took more pains to be esteemed worse than he was, than others do to appear better than they are. His envy was so childish, and so absurd,* that it may be very easily pardoned, for every body laughed at it ; and no man was ever very mischievous whose errors excited mirth : he never formed any scheme, or joined in any combination, to hurt any man living.

His inviting persons to condemn Mr. Home's tragedy, at first sight, wears an ill face ; but this was a transient thought of a giddy man, who, upon the least check,

* At a dinner of the Royal Academicians, one of the company, by some lively jests, excited the mirth of the society : the doctor was uneasy, and desired those who sat next him not to laugh, for he thought in truth it would make the man vain.

would have immediately renounced it, and as heartily joined with a party to support the piece he had before devoted to destruction. It cannot be controverted, that he was but a bad œconomist, nor in the least acquainted with that punctuality which regular people exact. He was more generous than just; like honest Charles, in the School for Scandal, he could not, for the soul of him, make justice keep pace with generosity. His disposition of mind was tender and compassionate; no unhappy person ever sued to him for relief, without obtaining it, if he had any thing to give; and, rather than not relieve the distressed, he would borrow. The poor woman, with whom he had lodged, during his obscurity, several years, in Green-Arbour Court, by his death lost an excellent friend; for the doctor often supplied her with food from his table, and visited her frequently, with the sole purpose to be kind to her. He had his dislike, as most men have, to particular people, but unmixed with malevolence. He, least of all mankind, approved Baretti's conversation;

conversation; he considered him as an insolent, overbearing foreigner; as Barette, in his turn, thought him an unpolished man, and an absurd companion: but when this unhappy Italian was charged with murder, and afterwards sent by Sir John Fielding to Newgate, Goldsmith opened his purse, and would have given him every shilling it contained; he, at the same time, insisted upon going in the coach with him to the place of his confinement.

C H A P. XLI.

*The Padlock-----Mr. Dibdin-----Mungo-----
 Mrs. Arne---The Hypocrite, taken from
 Cibber's Non-Juror---French Manners and
 English-----Maria and Charlotte-----Mrs.
 Abington---Her various talents in acting--
 Her accomplishments, and behaviour in private life.*

THE Padlock is a pleasing musical performance, that has more engaged the liking of the public than any little piece of the kind which has been acted these twenty years. The plot is taken from a Spanish novel.* The music was composed by Mr. Dibdin, who played the part of Mungo with much satisfaction of the audience. Bannister played Diego, and sung some very difficult songs with great skill. Bannister is, in many parts, a judicious actor, as well as an agreeable singer of such songs as please an English audience.

* The 12th of the exemplary morals of Cervantes.

Mrs. Arne, who died about nine or ten years since, charmed every body in Leonora; she was universally cried up, as the most pleasing of all our English singers; the melody, fulness, and flexibility of her tones, have not been equalled on our stage. She fell a sacrifice, it is thought, to her intense application to singing; the weakness of her constitution could not sustain the perpetual exercise of the theatre. The great desire of the public to hear her incessantly, deprived them of a charming performer, who was termed the nightingale of the stage, in the seventeenth or eighteenth year of her age.

The Hypocrite, a comedy, is an unimproved and slovenly alteration of Cibber's Non-Juror, and was acted with more applause and profit to the alterer than could have been expected; but, I believe, he owed the greatest part of its success to the performance of Mrs. Abington, in Charlotte.

Cibber's Non-Juror was certainly a party play, if a comedy may be called so, which

was professedly written in defence of those principles, and that constitution, upon which the government was established, and against those men who were its avowed enemies; for Jacobites, in the reign of George the First, were certainly not esteemed friends to the House of Brunswick.

Cibber understood English manners too well, to adopt all the characters and plot of Moliere's *Tartuffe*; the frequent interposition of a chambermaid, her influence over her young mistress and pertness to her master, would not suit the œconomy of an English fable, however agreeable to French customs. The lovers in Moliere are generally insipid, and the Valere and Mariane of the *Impostor* have no farther importance than that of being agents in the play. The quarrelling scene between them, in the third act, is a mere farcical altercation: Cibber, in the *Non-Juror*, has finely improved this incident, and has drawn such an amiable character of a gay, good-natured, sensible and generous coquette, in his Maria, that we may challenge any of our own, or
foreign

foreign stages, to produce an equal; but this author has not been altogether so attentive through his play to that discrimination of French and English manners, as might have been expected from a man of his judgment.

In the French play, the lady is engaged to make two discoveries of Tartuffe's passion for her; and this the customs of that country would justify. The scene in the third act would have been a sufficient proof of the Impostor's villainy to an Englishman. The language of love every French lady expects to hear from the gravest character in France; and we find Elmire apologizing to Tartuffe, an infamous villain, for the part she had acted in the discovery of his passion for her, by assuring him that it was contrary to her own inclinations, and that she was engaged in it by the desire of others.

C'est contre mon humeur que j'ai fait tout ceci ;
Mais on m'a mise au point de vous traiter ainsi.

In the Non-Juror the case is different; an elderly gentleman marries a
M 4 young

young lady of five and twenty, for love ; the serious remonstrances of such a woman as Lady Woodvile must have got the better of her husband's bigotry, therefore Cibber should have reserved the detection of Wolfe to the last act.

The alterer has injudiciously introduced into the play an old Lady Lambert, borrowed from the Madam Pernelle of Moliere, which Cibber very judiciously threw out, as of no service to his plot. Maw-worm, a new character, was supported by the power of Weston's acting: the cheapest way to gain applause is to make a character speak false English ; and in this the greatest part of Maw-worm's merit consists : Cantwell, the methodist, the genuine offspring of the Antinomian saints in the days of Oliver Cromwell, bears no mark of discrimination.

It is with the greatest pleasure I speak of Mrs. Abington's action in Charlotte : though the part had been most admirably performed by Mrs. Oldfield, and since her time with great applause and approbation by
Mrs.

Mrs. Woffington and Mrs. Pritchard; yet it is impossible to conceive that more gaiety, ease, humour, elegance and grace, could have been assumed by any actress, than by Mrs. Abington in this part; her ideas of it were entirely her own, for she had seen no pattern.

But the various talents of Mrs. Abington will demand from a stage historian particular attention, and a more accurate description of them: her person is formed with great elegance, her address is graceful, her look animated and expressive. To the goodness of her understanding, and the superiority of her taste, she is indebted principally for her power of pleasing; the tones of her voice are not naturally charming to the ear, but her incomparable skill in modulation renders them perfectly agreeable: her articulation is so exact, that every syllable she utters is conveyed distinctly, and even harmoniously. Congreve's Milla-mant of past times, she has skilfully modelled and adapted to the admired coquette and the lovely tyrant of the present day. All
ages

ages have their particular colours and variations of follies and fashions; these she understands perfectly, and dresses them to the taste of the present hour. In Shakespeare's Beatrice she had difficulties to encounter, and prejudices to conquer: remembrance of Mrs. Pritchard's excellence in that favourite part had stamped a decisive mark on the mode of representing it; notwithstanding this, Mrs. Abington, knowing her own peculiar powers of expression, would not submit to an imitation of that great actress, but exhibited the part according to her own ideas; nor did she fail of gaining great applause where-ever her judgment directed her to point out the wit, sentiment, or humour of Beatrice.

In the Widow Bellmour of Murphy's Way to Keep Him, her disengaged and easy manner, familiar to one who had been used to the company of persons distinguished by high rank and graceful behaviour, rendered her the delight of a brilliant circle of admirers. Mr. Garrick, in his character of Lady Bab Lardoon, in the Maid of the Oaks,

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Oaks, written on purpose for this actress, has, in a very delicate strain of panegyric, paid a lasting tribute to her merit. When this lady of high life, to impose on Dupely, a young travelled coxcomb, assumes a character of great simplicity, and tries her skill at a little naiveté; she says to one who is a witness of the diversion, “ You “ shall see what an excellent actress I should “ have made, if Fortune had not unluckily “ brought me into the world an earl’s “ daughter.” This elegant compliment needs no comment.

Though the theatre would have been almost deprived of the accomplished and well-bred woman of fashion without the assistance of Mrs. Abington, yet so various and unlimited are her talents, that she is not confined to females of a superior class; she can descend occasionally to the country girl, the romp, the hoyden, and the chambermaid, and put on the various humours, airs, and whimsical peculiarities of these under parts; she thinks nothing low that is in nature; nothing mean, or beneath her skill, which is characteristic.

The

The decency of her behaviour in private life has attracted the notice and gained the approbation of many persons of quality of her own sex. Like another Oldfield, or Cibber, she receives visits from, and returns them to, ladies of the most distinguished worth, and the highest rank. Her taste in dress is allowed to be superior, and she is often consulted in the choice of fashions by her female friends in high life; but as it would be absurd to confine her merit to so trifling an accomplishment, she cannot be denied the praise of engaging and fixing the regard of all her acquaintance by her good sense, elegance of manner, and propriety of conduct.

The following little poem, written by a gentleman of fashion, and considerable eminence in literature, will, I hope, be esteemed no unwelcome present to the reader, though it has already been once published.

On

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On Mrs. Abington's appearance in the character of Charlotte, in the Hypocrite; occasioned by the report of her quitting the stage.

Scarce had our tears forgot to flow,
By Garrick's loss inspir'd,
When Fame, to mortalize the blow,
Said, Abington's retir'd.

Sad with the news, THALIA mourn'd,
The Graces join'd her train;
And nought but sighs for sighs return'd
Were heard at Drury-Lane.

But see—'Tis false! in Nature's style
She comes, by Fancy dress'd;
Again gives Comedy her smile,
And Fashion all her taste.

CHAP.

C H A P. XLII.

*Mrs. Pritchard retires from the stage---
Reason for it assigned----Account of her
introduction to and progress in the theatre--
Her singular talents in acting---Object of
the public care---Her death----Mrs. Clive
leaves the theatre----Her interview with
Mr. Garrick on the occasion----Her stage
abilities described at large----Her love of
tragedy, &c.*

MRS. Pritchard, who, for near thirty-six years, had been admired for her superior merit in her profession, and beloved for her many virtues in private life, in 1768 resolved to withdraw into retirement, and spend the remainder of her life at Bath. To this she was tempted by the prospect of great advantages which were to accrue to her from a legacy of one Mr. Leonard, an attorney of Lyon's Inn, a distant relation; of whose will her brother, Mr. Vaughan, was the

the executor. But, whatever might have been the intention of the testator, by his will the bulk of his estate fell to the heirs at law, who were his nearest relations. Mr. Vaughan's conduct in this affair was publicly censured, and legally questioned. Mrs. Pritchard was unhappily led into a gross error.

She was, when very young, recommended to the notice of Mr. Booth, who was exceedingly pleased with her manner of reciting several scenes of parts in tragedy and comedy : he was then so great a valetudinarian, and so little connected with the management of the theatre, that it is thought he advised her to apply to Mr. Cibber, or some other governing person of the theatre.

Her first appearance was, soon after, at Bartholomew Fair, where she gained the notice and applause of the public by her easy, unaffected manner of speaking ; and was greatly caressed and admired for singing, in some droll, a favourite air, which began with

Sweet, if you love me, smiling turn—

Mrs.

Mrs. Pritchard set out a candidate for theatrical fame in 1733, at the time when Mr. Highmore, patentee of Drury-lane theatre, quarrelled with his principal actors, who revolted from him, and opened the little playhouse in the Hay-market. To the seceders she applied for employment; they very gladly embraced so promising an addition of strength to their company.

One of the first parts she acted was Belina, in a play called the Mother-in-Law, translated by Miller from Moliere's *Malade Imaginaire*, and adapted to the English stage. Her genteel person, for she was then young and slender, her attractive countenance, which, in the phrase of Shakespeare, was an alarm to love; her expressive, yet simple manner; her unembarrassed deportment and proper action, charmed all the spectators, who looked at one another with surprize and pleasure, as if congratulating themselves on seeing a rising genius, capable, perhaps, one day, of consoling them for the loss of Mrs. Oldfield, who was then lately deceased.

When

When Mr. Fleetwood united the two companies of Drury-lane and the Haymarket, Mrs. Pritchard was of too much consequence to be neglected; but notwithstanding her just claim to encouragement from the manager, he for some time omitted to bring her forward to public notice, by not giving her a proper opportunity to display her talents; she was often, from pique or prejudice, thrust into characters unworthy of so great a genius; such as Lady Love Rule in the *Wives Metamorphosed*: and I remember, when Mrs. Cibber made her first essay in Zara, in the tragedy of that name, Mrs. Pritchard was cast into the inferior part of Selima, her friend and confident. But it was impossible to obscure the lustre of so bright a diamond as Pritchard; by degrees she convinced the patentee, that it was his interest to have her often seen in parts of importance; Rosalind, in *As You Like It*, at once established her theatrical character: her delivery of dialogue, whether of humour, wit, or mere sprightliness, was never, I believe, surpassed,

or, perhaps, equalled: her fame was now enlarging every day by the eagerness which the town expressed to see her in various attitudes. Not confined to any one walk in acting, she ranged through them all; and, what is singular, she discovered a large degree of merit in every distinct class of it: her tragic power was eminent, but particularly in characters which required force of expression and dignity of figure.

She excelled in the Queen Mother of Hamlet, Zara in the Mourning Bride, Merope, Creusa, and more especially in Queen Katherine, the wife of Henry VIII. she gave to all these parts importance by her action, as well as speaking; her few defects in tragedy proceeded from a too loud and profuse expression of grief, and her want of grace in her manner; her natural ease of deportment and grandeur of person generally hid the defect of this last requisite from the common spectator. Her great force in comedy lay in a middle path, between parts of superior life, and those of humour in a lower class; Cibber's Lady Townly,

Townly, Lady Betty Modish, and Maria in the Non-Juror, she conceived accurately, and acted pleasingly, and with applause; but neither her person nor manner were sufficiently elegant and graceful for the high-bred woman of fashion. In Shakespeare's Beatrice, Vanbrugh's Berinthia, Farquhar's Mrs. Sullen, and all such parts as are thrown into situations of intrigue, gaiety and mirth, with diversity of humour, wit and pleasantry, she was inimitably charming, and has left no equal; she could descend to the affectations of a Lady Dainty, and the Scrivener's Wife, in the Confederacy; but her powers seemed to be checked by such inanimate parts of assumed delicacy.

Notwithstanding the fulness of her figure, and her advanced age, the town was charm'd to the last with her representation of Congreve's delightful portrait of wit, affectation, and good-nature, in Millamant. Her disengaged and easy manner in speaking and action supplied the want of an elegant form

and a youthful countenance. In the uttering of conversation, upon the most trifling topics, she had an unaccountable method of charming the ear; she delivered her words, as the great poet advises the actor, smoothly and trippingly from the tongue; and however voluble in enunciation her part might require her to be, not an iota of articulation was lost. Might I be allowed the expression, I should say that she was a mistress of dramatic eloquence in familiar dialogue.

Though Mrs. Clive, amongst many other stage accomplishments, was famous for scolds and viragos; Mrs. Pritchard, in such characters, was not her inferior: her Mrs. Termagant in the 'Squire of Alfatia, and Mrs. Oakly in the Jealous Wife, were finished pictures of female violence.

Her unblemished conduct in private life justly rendered her the great favourite of the people; few actresses were ever so sincerely beloved, and powerfully patronized, as Mrs. Pritchard.

A remarkable

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A remarkable instance of public regard was shewn to this comedian when she first brought her daughter on the stage. Mrs. Pritchard stooped to play Lady Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*, in order to introduce Miss Pritchard, in her attempt to act Juliet; the daughter's timidity was contrasted by the mother's apprehensions, which were strongly painted in their looks, and these were incessantly interchanged by stolen glances at each other. This scene of mutual sensibility was so affecting, that many of the audience burst into involuntary tears.

This young actress was extremely agreeable, and in many parts suited to her youth and beauty, was a favourite of the audience. But she did not continue long an actress: a daughter of Mrs. Pritchard may be excused for quitting the stage, when she recollected, that however indulgent the people might be to her performance, she put them in mind of her mother's great superiority.

Miss Pritchard married Mr. John Palmer, a respectable player in a variety of parts,

and a man esteemed for his integrity. Since his death she was married to Mr. Lloyd, a man who, after having gone through many vicissitudes of fortune, became a great jobber in the stocks; one who is not un-
useful, as I hear, to lord North, whose lady admires and visits Mrs. Lloyd.

Mrs. Pritchard took leave of the public in an epilogue written by Mr. Garrick. The tragedy of Macbeth was acted for her benefit. Mr. Garrick, out of respect to this very valuable woman, gave the public, and, I believe, for the last time, one of his principal and most masterly exhibitions, in the character of Macbeth. Lady Macbeth is the chief agent of the poet to carry on his grand plot; a woman of unbounded ambition, void of all human feelings, to gain a crown urges her reluctant husband to the murder of the king. Mrs. Pritchard's action, before and after the commission of the horrid deed, was strongly characteristical; it presented an image of a mind insensible to compunction, and inflexibly bent to cruelty. When she snatched the dagger
from

from the remorseful and irresolute Macbeth, despising the agitations of a mind unaccustomed to guilt, and alarmed at the terrors of conscience, she presented to the audience a picture of the most consummate intrepidity in mischief. When she seized the instruments of death, and said,

GIVE ME THE DAGGERS!—

her look and action cannot be described, and will not soon be forgotten by the surviving spectators. At the banquet scene, in the third act of the play, she still discovered more characteristical skill, if possible, than in the preceding act. The guilty king, full of the horrors resulting from the murder of Banquo, by his alarming terrors of mind, betrays himself to his guests. Mrs. Pritchard's art in endeavouring to engage the attention of the company, and draw them from the observation of Macbeth's feelings, equalled any thing that was ever seen in the art of acting.

In exhibiting the last scene of Lady Macbeth, in which the terrors of a guilty

conscience keep the mind broad awake while the body sleeps, Mrs. Pritchard's acting resembled those sudden flashes of lightning, which more accurately discover the horrors of surrounding darkness.

She spoke her farewell epilogue with many tears and sobs, which were increased by the generous feelings of a numerous and splendid audience. She retired to Bath, and died there, about four months after, of a mortification in her foot.

About a year after Mrs. Pritchard had withdrawn from the theatre, her constant companion and friend, Mrs. Clive, determined to follow her example: she could, if she had thought proper, have continued several years longer, to delight the public in various characters adapted to her figure and time of life; for to the last she was admirable and unrivalled.

Mr. Garrick sent Mr. Hopkins, the prompter, to her, to know whether she was in earnest in her intention of leaving the stage. To such a messenger Mrs. Clive disdained to give an answer. To Mr.
George

George Garrick, whom he afterwards deputed to wait on her on the same errand, this high-spirited actress was not much more civil; however, she condescended to tell him, that if his brother wished to know her mind, he should have called upon her himself. When the manager and Mrs. Clive met, their interview was short, and their discourse curious. After some compliments on her great merit, Mr. Garrick wished, he said, that she would continue, for her own sake, some years longer on the stage. This civil suggestion she answered by a decisive negative. He asked how much she was worth; she replied briskly, as much as himself. Upon his smiling at her supposed ignorance or misinformation, she explained herself, by telling him, that *she* knew when she had enough, though *he* never would. He then entreated her to renew her agreement for three or four years; she peremptorily refused. Upon his renewing his regret at her leaving the stage, she frankly told him, that she hated hypocrisy; for she was sure
that

that he would light up candles for joy of her leaving him, but that it would be attended with some expence.---Every body will see there was some unnecessary smartness in the lady's language ; but however, it was her way, as her friend Mrs. Pritchard used to express it.

Mrs. Clive, when very young, had a strong propensity to acting. Her first theatrical engagement to Booth, Wilkes, and Cibber, in 1727, was principally owing to the goodness of her voice, and to some proficiency which she had made in singing ; nor, till her merit as an actress shewed itself in Nell the cobbler's wife, was she considered in any other light than as one qualified to entertain the audience with a song between the acts of a play, or to act some innocent country girl, such as Phillida in Damon and Phillida ; an engraving of her in that character is still to be seen in the print-shops. The comic abilities of this actress have not been excelled, or indeed scarce equalled, by any performer, male or female, these fifty years : she was so formed by nature to represent

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represent a variety of lively, laughing, droll, humourous, affected and absurd characters, that what Colley Cibber said of Nokes may with equal truth be applied to her; for Clive had such a stock of comic force about her, that she, like Nokes, had little more to do than to perfect herself in the words of a part, and to leave the rest to nature; and if he, by the mere power of his action, kept alive several comedies, which after his death became obsolete, it may as justly be said of her, that she created several parts in plays of which the poet scarce furnished an outline; and that many dramatic pieces are now lost to the stage for want of her animating spirit to preserve them.

A more extensive walk in comedy than that of Mrs. Clive cannot be imagined. The chambermaid, in every varied shape which art or nature could lend her; characters of whim and affectation, from the high-bred Lady Fanciful to the vulgar Mrs. Heidelberg; country girls, romps, hoydens and dowdies, superannuated beauties, viragos and humourists. To a strong and
pleasing

pleasing voice, with an ear for music, she added all the sprightly action requisite to a number of parts in ballad farces.

She had an inimitable talent in ridiculing the extravagant action, impertinent consequence, and insignificant parade of the female opera singer; she snatched an opportunity to shew her excellence in this stage mimicry in the *Lady of Fashion* in *Lethe*.

Her mirth was so genuine, that, whether it was restrained to the arch sneer and the suppressed half laugh, widened to the broad grin, or extended to the downright honest burst of loud laughter, the audience was sure to accompany her; he must have been more or less than man, who could be grave when Clive was disposed to be merry.

But the whole empire of laughter, large as it is, was too confined to satisfy the ambition of a Clive; this daughter of mirth aspired to what nature had denied her; she wished to shine in those parts of high life where elegance of form and graceful deportment give dignity to the female character.

rafter. Not content with this deviation from her own style in acting, she would fain try her abilities in the more lofty tread of the buskin.

If Hogarth had never delighted the world with a genuine history of nature in his *Harlot's Progress*, his *Marriage à la mode*, and other admirable works of humour, his *Sigismunda* and his *Pharaoh's Daughter* might have passed for tolerable pictures; so Clive's attempts in the higher comedy and tragedy might have been unnoticed and uncensured, had not her exquisite comic vein thrown a comparative contempt upon them.

Nature has seldom given to the same person the power to raise admiration, and to excite mirth; to unite the faculties of Milton and Butler, is a happiness superior to the common lot of humanity.

The art of expressing with equal force the effusion of comic gaiety and tragic terror, was a talent peculiar, in its fullest extent, to Garrick, and to him alone; for
even

even Mrs. Pritchard enjoyed these different powers of excelling in an inferior degree.

The uncommon applause which Mrs. Clive obtained in Shakespeare's Portia, was owing to her misrepresentation of the character: mimicry in a pleader, when a client's life is in danger, is but misplaced buffoonery.

This inclination to figure in parts, ill adapted, not only to her genius, but her age and person, accompanied this great actress to the last, and sometimes involved her in disagreeable disputes, from which she had the good fortune to extricate herself by her undaunted spirit.

Mr. Garrick dreaded an altercation with her as much as a quarrel with an author whose play he had rejected; whenever he had a difference with Mrs. Clive, he was happy to make a drawn battle of it. At a time of life when she was utterly unfit to represent a girl of sixteen, he prevailed upon her to surrender Miss Prue in Love for Love, by making her a present of Mrs. Frail in the same play, a
part

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part almost as improper for Mrs. Clive as the other.

It was the wish of her life to act female characters of importance with Mr. Garrick : where-ever she could thrust herself into a play with him, she always exerted her utmost skill to excel, and particularly in Bizarre in the Inconstant, when he acted Duretete. He seems to have studiously avoided a struggle for victory with her, which, I believe, she attributed to his dread of her getting the better of him. She certainly was true game, as Mr. Lacy expressed it; and would have died upon the spot, rather than have yielded the field of battle to any body. Mr. Garrick complained that she disconcerted him, by not looking at him in the time of action, and neglecting to watch the motion of his eye; a practice he was sure to observe to others. I am afraid this accusation is partly true; for Mrs. Clive would suffer her eyes sometimes to wander from the stage into the boxes in search of her great acquaintance, and now and then give them a comedy nod or curtsy; she was in this
guilty

guilty of the very fault which she ridiculed so archly in Mingotti, and other Italian ladies of the opera; but yet it must not be denied, that though she seemed absent by her look, she was present by her spirit; the soul of humour was active on the stage, though the bodily organs seemed to be elsewhere employed.

Mrs. Pritchard and Mrs. Clive, though of characters extremely different, were closely united in the bonds of friendship for almost forty years.

No actresses ever laboured more assiduously to make her family affluent and happy than Mrs. Pritchard. In this Mrs. Clive followed her example, and more effectually. But whilst one seemed to confine all her attention to her relations, which indeed were very numerous, the other occasionally exerted her interest in the service of others. Clive resigned the part of Polly, which was no trifling sacrifice, in favour of Miss Edwards, afterwards Mrs. Mozeen, whom she instructed and encouraged; and, to promote the general interest of the community, she undertook

undertook the part of Lucy, a character so truly played by her, that it has never since been equalled; to her lessons, care and countenance, as well as to her own industry and abilities, we owe the proficiency of that valuable actress, Miss Pope.

Mrs. Clive, in private life, was so far above censure, that her conduct, in every relation of it, was not only laudable, but exemplary. Her company was always courted by women of high rank and character, to whom she rendered herself very agreeable. She is still visited by many distinguished persons of both sexes. Her conversation is a mixture of uncommon vivacity, droll mirth, and honest bluntness. The polite and learned Horace Walpole, the son of a nobleman to whom this country is indebted for the extent of her commerce, and that greatest of all civil blessings, the preservation of her free constitution, wrote Mrs. Clive's farewell epilogue, in which she took leave of an audience who parted with so bright an ornament of the stage with much regret.

C H A P. XLIII.

Mr. Havard leaves the stage --- His respectable character --- Employed by Mr. Giffard --- His Scanderberg --- Charles the First --- Some observations on that tragedy --- Enquiry into the reasons of contempt thrown on player authors --- Mr. Gray censured --- Mr. Havard engaged to Fleetwood --- His Regulus --- Employed by Mr. Garrick --- His death.

HAVARD, who, for almost forty years, has been the approved servant of the public in a variety of characters, and always acceptable to the various managers of theatres who had employed him; being now advanced towards the sixtieth year of his age, was resolved to imitate the example of his old acquaintance, Mrs. Pritchard and Mrs. Clive, and exchange the bustle of the stage for ease and retirement.

This player deserves to be remembered, not so much for his stage abilities, which were indeed far from contemptible, as for his
his

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his probity, the gentleness of his manners, and the benevolence of his disposition.

Mr. Havard's father was a vintner, and a citizen of Dublin; he gave his son, who was born there in July 1710, a liberal education; he, for some time, applied himself to surgery, but a strong and early inclination for the stage prevented his making any great proficiency in that science.

In 1730 Mr. Havard left Dublin, and arrived at London. Mr. Giffard, then master of the theatre in Goodman's Fields, pleased with his agreeable address, engaged him as an actor, at a moderate salary: his good sense and polite manner soon won so far upon the manager, that he took his tragedy of Scanderberg under his care, and acted it with all the strength of his company. Scanderberg is a juvenile performance not destitute of merit; in many scenes of it there is a deficiency of judgment, with language somewhat too swelling and boisterous; but many passages of it are vigorous and pathetic.

When Giffard, in 1736, hired the theatre in Lincoln's-inn-fields, Havard was esteem'd

one of his principal supports, in the double capacity of actor and author.

During the winter season, this manager was reduced to great straits; and, in order to retrieve his affairs, the story of Charles the First was proposed to him as a proper subject to engage the public attention. Havard undertook the office of writing an historical play which should comprehend the trial and death of that unhappy prince. But Havard's desire of ease was known to be superior to his thirst for fame, or love of money; and Giffard insisted upon the power of locking him up till the work was finished. To this he, with his usual good-nature, consented; and Giffard actually turned the key upon him, and let him out at his pleasure till the play was finished. This circumstance Havard would often relate amongst his friends, and laugh at.

Charles the First was acted with great emolument to the manager, and with some degree of reputation, as well as gain, to the author. The subject was thought by many improper for the stage; the trial and be-
heading

heading of a king, it was said, would revive republican notions of government; besides, it was alledged the fact was too recent for representation.

This is a point which I have not abilities to discuss, nor is it necessary in a book of this kind; but in a free country, like ours, why such a great historical event should not be brought on the stage, for a warning and instruction to king and people, I cannot see any good reason. In a limited monarchy, the mischiefs arising from the encroachments of prerogative on privilege, and the turbulence of the people, who, in their turn, may invade the rights of the crown, will ever furnish matter for the historian, and, I believe also, subjects for the dramatic writer. Shakspeare's historical plays must be admitted good evidence in this case. I shall neither justify nor condemn the beheading of Charles the First; but the act itself, whether just or unjust, was certainly great, and, at this day, throws a tremendous dignity on those men who had the courage to put it in execution.

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The diction of the play is stiff and metaphorical, resembling the nervous, but pedantic, language of the times. The characters of Charles and Cromwell are drawn in conformity to history. Fairfax, a presbyterian and a warrior, is honest and weak, and the dupe of Cromwell, a man of superior understanding, who had either no religion, or such as he could mould to his purposes. The scene of the trial was a faithful picture of an historical fact. The king's parting with his children cannot be read in the historian without great emotion; what effect must it then have on the stage? Never were tears so plentifully shed as at the mournful separation of Charles and the young princes.

This popular subject drew large crowds to Lincoln's-inn-fields theatre. Curiosity was for a long time much excited with respect to the author; that was a secret to be kept from the people; but Havard's love of fame would not suffer it to be kept longer than the tenth or twelfth night of acting the play.

The

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The moment Havard put on the sword and tie-wig, the genteel dress of the times, and professed himself to be the writer of Charles the First, the audiences were thinned, and the play was supposed to be inferior to what its real merit had a right to claim; the people thought they had been grossly imposed upon: nay, old John Watts the printer, who was then the general purchaser of dramatic pieces, was so staggered at the discovery of the author, that he refused to give the usual fee of 100*l*. The anecdotes of that time tell us there was a long contest between Watts and Havard; the latter insisted upon the usual price given to authors for plays which met with uncommon success; the former declared he would retrench 20*l*. if the author insisted upon having his name in the title-page. How this contest was decided, I know not; but Havard's name is in the front of the play. I cannot help smiling at the absurdity of appreciating a play applauded by ten or twelve audiences, merely from the name or profession of the author.

Why the name of player should be so obnoxious in a candidate for dramatic fame in authorship, I cannot conceive. The best writer of plays is acknowledged to have been Shakespeare, who was a player. Ben Johnson tried his abilities in stage representation, and failed; and his gross abuse of the actors, more especially in his *Poetaster*, is, not improbably, said to take its rise from his being expelled their community, as one incapable. Otway, Lee, and Farquhar, though good writers, were all unsuccessful attempters in the art of acting; the profession itself was not therefore deemed degrading by these eminent men. Moliere, the glory and boast of the French stage, was as much admired for his talents in acting as his skill in writing; so was Dancourt, another writer of plays, and an excellent comedian; both of them were dear to Louis XIV. a man of taste, and one of the greatest monarchs in Europe.

The dainty Mr. Grey was extremely offended that Colley Cibber, a player, should presume to write an essay on the character

character and conduct of Cicero: he seems to think it very unhappy, that *reason* and *truth* should be bedizen'd in the tattered fringe, dirty furbelows, false jewels and frippery of a stroller's wardrobe. Seriously, this was a terrible misfortune; and I hope the distressed writer called for his lavender drops, to relieve him in his exquisite feelings.

A player daring to write upon a known subject without a college permission, was a shocking offence; and yet Dr. Middleton, to whom the conduct of Cicero was addressed, spoke of it with respect; and Mr. Hooke, the writer of the best Roman History in our language, has quoted Ciber's arguments in this pamphlet against the murderers of Julius Cæsar, and speaks of them, not only with honour, but insists upon them as cogent and unanswerable.

All lovers of genius and friends of learning will pay due homage to the criticisms of Mr. Grey; but will his remains, though embalmed by his friend the elegant Mason, be longer admired than some of the comedies
of

of Colley Cibber? The apology of the same author for his life, is one of those original performances that scarce ever was excelled, and will last as long as our language.

Pope's implacable malevolence to Cibber will be ever recorded to his dispraise. When Cibber was preparing his letter to Pope, which afterwards made so much noise, the latter was extremely anxious to know the contents of it. When Mr. Richardson the painter, and his son, paid an accidental visit to Pope at Twickenham, he had just received the pamphlet from the press. To shew his intrepidity, he would read it to his guests: Mr. Richardson observed, that, notwithstanding all his endeavours to hide his uneasiness, he never saw a man under a greater agony and distress of mind; the consequence was, that he devoted his time so incessantly to the alteration of his *Dunciad*, to throw out Theobald the old King Log, and introduce King Colley into the throne, that he hurt his health, and spoiled several admired passages of that poem.

When

When Mr. Giffard understood, that notwithstanding the success of Charles I. the general receipts of the treasury fell short of the money which he expended, he began to be alarmed lest he should be obliged to put an end to the season before the proper time, and shut his doors.

During this distress and anxiety of mind, a certain unknown writer brought to him a dramatic piece, called, *The Golden Calf*. This was no less than a most outrageous satire against the king, the royal family, and many of the highest and most respected persons in the kingdom.

Giffard imagined that this piece would excite the curiosity of the public; and as the people in general are fond of seeing their superiors treated with impertinence and insolence, he did not question that this high seasoned satire would be much followed, and bring him crowded houses; but he had likewise the discernment to know, that the author of the *Golden Calf* had wantonly exceeded every limit of decency, and

even loyalty, and put to defiance the laws of the land. The piece was replete with Jacobite principles, at a time when they were much more offensive to the people than the persons of Jacobites. Upon reflection, Mr. Giffard thought it would be most proper to make a merit of laying this farce before the minister. He waited upon Sir Robert Walpole; he acquainted him with his unhappy situation; he was reduced, he said, to the necessity of acting a dramatic piece, which would certainly fill his house, at a time when he was greatly distressed; but though he wished to mend his fortune, he could not have any inclination to act against his conscience, for he abhorred the principles and the slander with which it abounded. Sir Robert desired he would leave the MS. with him, and promised to make no use of it that should be to his disadvantage. The minister had no sooner perused this curious drama, than he formed the plan of limiting the number of theatres, and of suffering no plays, farces, or any entertainment of the stage, to be acted

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acted without the permission of a person appointed to license them.

Sir Robert was the best natured gentleman that ever lived ; but he had received such provocations from Mr. Fielding in his plays and farces, just before that time, acted at the Little Theatre in the Hay-market, that he was not displeased to have it in his power to stop the current of stage abuse against him, which then ran very high.

Fielding, in his *Euridice* His'd, had brought the minister upon the theatre in a levee scene ; and in his *Historical Register*, he had introduced him as a fiddler playing on his fiddle, and followed by the members of parliament, who danced to the tune played by the premier.

Sir Robert watched the proper time, when he imagined the House of Commons would be in a humour to receive the impression which he intended to make. He informed the House, that he had something to lay before them of great importance, which he should submit entirely to their wisdom

wisdom and determination. He then desired that the Golden Calf might be read. The infamous scurrility contained in this piece alarmed every body; they were shocked at the scandalous and treasonable abuse, of which the stage was intended to be made the instrument; and leave was immediately given to bring in a bill to license all entertainments of the theatre. Much opposition was made to it in every stage of its progress through both the houses; and the Earl of Chesterfield signalized himself by a very celebrated speech in favour of the liberty of the stage. Notwithstanding all the efforts of the country party, the act passed both the lower and upper house, and received the royal assent in April or May, 1737.

It is said, that Sir Robert Walpole presented Mr. Giffard with the sum of one thousand pounds. Thus, at a very cheap rate, the crown gained the power of hindering the stage from speaking any language that was displeasing to them.

When

When Giffard, in consequence of an act of parliament to restrain the number of playhouses, was obliged to shut the doors of his theatre in Goodman's Fields, Havard's merit recommended him to Mr. Fleetwood. His tragedy of *Regulus* was, not long after, accepted; and, by the friendship of Mr. Garrick, and his excellent performance of the principal character, it was supported on the stage for several nights successively. The story is very noble, and highly interesting; and Havard gave some proofs of his abilities in his management of the plot, and drawing the outline of *Regulus*. But no author has written with sufficient force and dignity on that subject, except *Metastasio*; in this writer we acknowledge the *Regulus* of old Rome, attended with that savage patriotic spirit which dignified the barbarous heroes of that state, in its struggle for the empire of the world.

When Mr. Garrick purchased a share of Drury-lane patent, Havard was in the service of Mr. Rich; but he was soon prevailed upon, as his articles were then expired,

pired, to embrace the kind offer of his old friend, the new patentee, to engage with him on very liberal terms, superior to what he had hitherto enjoyed; and indeed no performer of his assiduity, deserved encouragement more than he did; he acted a variety of characters both in tragedy and comedy, and was constantly before the eyes of a critical audience. Such was the soundness of his judgment, and so respectable his character, that he never met with any marks of displeasure from the public; on the contrary, he was constantly favoured with their countenance and approbation.

Nothing can better prove his interest with the people, than his being encouraged to act parts to which neither his voice nor his manner was adapted. Remorseless tyrants, savage conquerors, and state villains, undignified by any generous passion or splendor of action, have in a theatre been always esteemed very hazardous to the persons who have undertaken to represent them; and several actors, from their superior situation, have rejected them, though Nature seemed

to

to have formed them to act such boisterous characters.

Notwithstanding the inadequate powers of Havard, the author of a new tragedy always thought himself most secure when a scepter'd ruffian or an hateful minister of state were undertaken by him; he knew the audience would favour the actor for the sake of the man.

In private life he was an acceptable member of society: Havard was always the companion of gentlemen distinguished for their worth and amiable qualities; his conversation was liberal and easy, and such as became the well-bred man, unmixed with sarcasm, spleen, petulance, or ill-nature.

But the gentleness of his temper, and the softness of his demeanor, did not partake either of meanness or weakness; for he wanted not spirit to resent any perverse attempt to provoke his anger. Foote more than once experienced and acknowledged the power of his wit in conversation.

To

To conclude this amiable man's character, which I have dwelt upon the longer for the sake of his successors on the stage; he was greatly esteemed by the public, and beloved by a very numerous and respectable acquaintance.

He retired from the stage in May 1769, and spoke a farewell epilogue, partly written by Mr. Garrick, and partly by himself.

He died of a gentle decay, at his lodgings in Tavistock-street, in January 1778.

Verses inscribed on Mr. Havard's tomb-stone,
written by Paul Whitehead, Esq.

Views of ambition ne'er his hopes employ'd,
Yet honest Fame he courted, and enjoy'd;
Fair Peace he cherish'd, as he hated strife,
And lov'd and liv'd an inoffensive life.
Not unaccomplish'd in the scenic art,
He grac'd the stage, and often reach'd the heart.
From his own scenes he taught distress to flow,
And manly virtue wept for civil woe:
Malevolence and envy he ne'er knew;
He never felt their darts, and never threw.

W^h

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With his best care he form'd into his plan
The moral duties of the social man.

*He honour'd virtue, and he lov'd his friend ;
Oft from his little to the poor would lend,
And prais'd his great Creator at his end.

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* The three last lines were not written by Mr. Whitehead, who died about three years before Mr. Havard.

C H A P.

CHAP. XLIV.

The Jubilee at Stratford, in honour of Shakespeare---The fate of a clergyman who cut down Shakespeare's mulberry-tree---The use made of it---Various entertainments at the Jubilee-----Account of the company-----The Ode-----Remarks upon it-----A gentleman turns the whole festival into ridicule---A Macaroni pleads the cause of insensibility against Shakespeare-----Answer to him by the steward---Strange stupidity of the inhabitants of Stratford---Harmony between Mr. Garrick's generosity and œconomy.

IF any author ever merited the celebration of a periodical festival, Shakespeare certainly called for that distinguished honour. Many persons of high rank and approv'd taste had admired many excellent critics and commentators on this divine bard, had exerted their talents in the illustration of his text, and bestowed upon his writings a profusion
of

of just panegyric ; but the idea of a jubilee, or grand festival, in his honour, was reserved to David Garrick.

Remarkable events have been indebted for their origin to very unpromising incidents.

A wealthy clergyman purchased the house and gardens of Shakespeare at Stratford upon Avon. A man of taste in such a situation, and master of so enchanting a spot, would have congratulated himself on his good fortune, and have deemed himself the happiest of mortals ; but the luckless and ignorant owner trod the ground which had been cultivated by the first genius of the world, without feeling those warm emotions which arise in the breast of the generous enthusiast.

The mulberry-tree, planted by the poet's own hand, became an object of dislike to this tasteless owner of it, because it overshadow'd his window, and rendered the house, as he thought, subject to damps and moisture. In an evil hour the unhappy priest ordered it to be cut down.

The people of Stratford, who had been taught to venerate every thing which related to the immortal Shakespeare, were seized with grief and astonishment when they were informed of the sacrilegious deed; and nothing less than the destruction of the offender, in the first transports of their rage, would satisfy them. The miserable culprit was forced to skulk up and down, to save himself from the rage of the Stratfordians; he was obliged at last to leave the town, amidst the curses of the populace, who solemnly vowed never to suffer one of the same name to reside in Stratford.

The mulberry-tree, thus cut down, was purchased by a carpenter; who, knowing the value which all the world professed for any thing which belonged to Shakespeare, very ingeniously cut it into various shapes, of small trunks, snuff-boxes, tea-chests, standishes, tobacco-stoppers, &c. The corporation of Stratford bought several of this man's curious manufacture of the mulberry-tree; and, influenced by good sense and superior taste, they inclosed the freedom of
Stratford

Stratford in a box made of this sacred wood, and sent it to Mr. Garrick; at the same time they requested of him, in very polite terms, a bust, statue, or picture of his admired Shakespeare, which, they informed him, they intended to place in their town-hall. In the same letter, with equal politeness, they assured him, that they should be no less pleased if he would oblige them with his own picture, to be placed near to his favourite author, in perpetual remembrance of both.

This judicious and well-timed compliment gave rise to the Jubilee of Shakespeare. In September 1769, an amphitheatre was erected at Stratford, upon the plan of Ranelagh, decorated with various devices. Transparencies were invented for the town-house, through which the poet's most striking characters were seen. A small old house, where Shakespeare was born, was covered over with curious emblematic transparency; the subject was the sun struggling through clouds, to enlighten the world; a figurative representation of the fate and fortunes of the much-beloved bard.

The Jubilee lasted three days; during which time entertainments of oratorios, concerts, pageants, fire-works, &c. were presented to a very brilliant and numerous company, assembled from all parts of the kingdom. Many persons of the highest quality and rank, of both sexes, some of the most celebrated beauties of the age, and men distinguished for their genius and love of the elegant arts, thought themselves happy to fill the grand chorus of this high festival.

Mr. Foote indulged in the fallies of that wit which seemed to please all by sparing none. Mr. Colman, by a chearful vivacity and ready urbanity, engaged the attention of all about him. The historian of Corsica, and the friend of Dr. Johnson, Mr. Boswell, a man as much celebrated for his humanity, as known for his romantic turn of mind, distinguished himself by the name of Corsica Boswell, which words were inscribed on the outside of his hat in large letters.

No company, so various in character, temper and condition, ever formed, at least

in

in appearance, such an agreeable groupe of happy and congenial souls.

Mr. Garrick's ode on Shakespeare was that part of the general exhibition which most excited the regard and gained the applause of the candid and judicious part of the company.

The Shakespeare Ode is a composition which I am persuaded none but fastidious hypercritics can affect to despise: it was written by a man warm with the sentiments, and full of the imagery of the great poet: Mr. Garrick has happily blended, in almost every stanza, some peculiar or striking expression of Shakespeare, which serves as a text to that part of the ode. 'Tis impossible not to be pleased with, nay, not to admire many parts of this poetical nosegay: I cannot forbear transcribing the following animated lines:

O! from his muse of fire !

Could but one spark be caught,
Then might these humble strains aspire
To tell the wonders he has wrought ;
To tell how, sitting on his throne,
 Unaided and alone,
 In dreadful state,
The subject passions round him wait ;
Who, though unchain'd, and raging there,
He checks, enflames, or turns their mad career,
 With that superior skill
 Which winds the fiery steed at will :
 He gives the awful word,
And they all foaming, trembling, own him for
 their lord.

The birth of Falstaff, that great unrivalled original of wit and humour, is finely conceived, and happily delivered. Allusions to the great and various excellences of Shakespeare are, through the whole ode, constantly kept in view ; his tragic and comic vein, his magical powers of enchantment, his passions and characters, are all as faithfully, warmly, and even critically,

tically, described, I had almost said, as they are by the excellent pen of the learned and judicious Mrs. Montague.

The airs were set to music by Dr. Arne, who combined all the powers of harmony to do justice to the subject.

The recitative was spoken by Mr. Garrick with such grace, energy and propriety, that music was, for the first time, compelled to yield the palm to the superior force and harmony of speaking.

There was one whimsical incident which fell out during the Jubilee, which he who pretends to give an account of this festival, cannot omit.

A gentleman, supposed to be an intimate friend of Mr. Garrick, and a professed admirer of Shakespeare, one who, by a careful perusal of all the old dramatic writers, and other authors who lived in the days of Elizabeth and James the First, has very happily restored, in numberless places, the genuine text of the admired poet; but even this is not doing him justice;

for, by uncommon sagacity of discernment and quickness of apprehension, he has explained some of the most obscure and desperate passages in the same writer: this commentator is second only to Dr. Johnson; he indeed, by the force of his genius, and without the assistance of old writers and old plays, has given a fuller and better interpretation of his author, and rendered his text more beneficial to the common reader than all the interpreters of Shakespeare put together.*

This gentleman critic took it into his head to turn the whole business of the Jubilee into ridicule.

While the company at Stratford were indulging themselves in a generous and enthusiastic admiration of the greatest and noblest genius

“That ever lived in the tide of times,”
one of his best commentators was employing himself in throwing out abusive strictures, farcassms and witticisms, in the form

* For a proof of what is here advanced, let any candid man take a view of Dr. Johnson's labours on the play of Hamlet alone.

of letters, (no less than twenty or thirty of which, I am informed, were published in the prints) short poems, odes, epigrams, paragraphs, &c. upon the folly of those people who could devote their time to such a ridiculous amusement as a Stratford Jubilee. The wit which was spent by the writer on this occasion, might have been more happily diverted another way, and turned upon properer subjects, and persons more obnoxious, as well as less familiar and intimate with himself; but the man of wit, from his impatience to shew the keenness of it, often wounds with this dangerous weapon his best friends, and not seldom himself.

A very diverting and humorous mock ode, which was a Parody of Dryden's Ode on St. Cecilia's Day, was the most remarkable, as well as happiest, effort of the satirist's wit.*

* The gentleman and Mr. Garrick, from that time, though they now and then conversed with familiarity and seeming frankness, were never afterwards on real terms of friendship. The resentment of Mr. Garrick was very unequivocal. The whole process of the quarrel is in the hands of Mr. Garrick's friends, which they are now willing to forget, unless provoked to revive it.

This unexpected and unfriendly attack upon his favourite scheme, Mr. Garrick combated, by exhibiting that exotic character, called a Macaroni, in the amphitheatre of Stratford. This person tried the force of his ingenuity to decry and ridicule Shakespeare and his writings, and the Jubilee in his honour.

Mr. King was called upon to personate this whimsical offspring of spleen and ill-nature.

The Macaroni's chief objection to Shakespeare arose from his being a vulgar author, who excites those common emotions of laughing and crying, which were intirely indecent and unbecoming in polite assemblies; that the criterion of a fine gentleman was to be moved at nothing--to feel nothing--to admire nothing---He wished to civilize the barbarous manners of his country; and the first step to it was, never to suffer such an execrable fellow as Shakespeare, with his things called comedies and tragedies, to debauch their minds and understanding, and to disturb that ennui
which

which was the sole pleasure of a gentleman. He concluded with a string of sarcasms against the Jubilee, the Steward, the Corporation, and the whole company, to their great mirth and diversion.

To this speech of the Macaroni the Steward answered, by appealing to the judgment of the ladies; he put them in mind of the great veneration which they had always manifested for his favourite poet,* by their large contributions to the erection of a monument to his memory in Westminster Abbey. After some pertinent and severe reflections on those persons who had refined away their feelings, he addressed the fair spectators in verse: a few select passages are here inserted.

* About six or seven years before Mr. Garrick appeared on the stage, several ladies of the first rank and the most distinguished taste formed themselves into a society, to support, by their presence and encouragement, all the best plays of Shakespeare. They were called The Shakespeare Club. Alluding to this institution, Fielding, in the conclusion of his *Historical Register*, thus addresses the ladies present at his play, "Now, ladies, whether you be Shakespeare ladies, or Beaumont and Fletcher ladies," &c.

In Shakespeare's name I invoke the fair,
 Whilst on my breast their patron saint I wear : *
 He lov'd the sex, not like your men of prose,
 Or common bards, whose blood but ebbs and flows ;
 His love was rapture, of superior note,
 Shakespeare could only love as Shakespeare wrote.

Whate'er of wit, of grace, or fancy, flow'd,
 Shakespeare on you, his best belov'd, bestow'd ;
 'Twas you engross'd his first, his fond regard ;
 And you, to Nature just, revere the bard.
 Spite of all malice, here I glorying stand,
 That Shakespeare's tree produc'd this little wand ; †
 From this to me such heart-felt transport springs,
 As staffs to gen'ral, scepters give to kings :
 The parent tree, from whence its life it drew,
 Beneath his care its earliest culture knew,
 And with his fame its spreading branches grew.

The name of Shakespeare ever will be dear
 While joy shall smile, and sorrow drop the tear.

* The medal of Shakespeare.

† His steward's wand made of the mulberry-tree.

While beauty charms, he charms—Not only you,
Whom now the glory of this isle we view;
Your daughters daughters shall confess his pow'r
'Till language fail, or time shall be no more;
Shall on his cause enraptur'd judges sit,
And beauty ever prove the patroness of wit.

Though the wealthy and liberal part of the inhabitants of Stratford were truly sensible of the honour conferred upon them by this magnificent festival in commemoration of their townsman, the lower and more ignorant class of the people entertained the most preposterous and absurd notions of the Jubilee; they viewed Mr. Garrick with some degree of apprehension and terror; they considered him as a magician, and dreaded the effects of his wand as strongly as the deluded populace did formerly, in the darkest days of ignorance, the power of witchcraft.

Yet one thing must not be forgotten; though these sordid wretches were so stupid, as to impute the violent rains which fell during the Jubilee to the judgment

ment and vengeance of Heaven, which was by them supposed to be angry with the exhibition of fire-works, balls, assemblies, masquerades, and other public diversions; they took the advantage of the vast crowds of people who flocked to Stratford from all parts of the kingdom, to exact the most exorbitant prices for lodgings, provisions, and every necessary article of accommodation.

In this rude and uncivilized spot was Shakespeare born, where, in his infant years, he imbibed the elements of poetical rapture, and fed his young fancy with the awful dreams of magic and superstition. Here first he learned to prattle of elves and fairies, of wizards, witches, and enchantments, and of the unseen wonders of the lower and upper regions. Here too his mind was enriched with that beautiful imagery and enthusiastic vision which afterwards impelled him to create new worlds, and to people them with inhabitants of his own formation.

Mr.

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Mr. Garrick, who always joined the strictest œconomy to the most liberal expenditure, brought Shakespeare's Jubilee from Stratford to Drury-lane. The public was so charmed with this uncommon pageant, which was ingeniously contrived and judiciously managed, that the representation of it was repeated near one hundred times.

CHAP.

C H A P. XLV.

*Mr. Mossop quits the service of Mr. Garrick--
Goes to Ireland, and articles with Barry
and Woodward---Leaves them, and opens
the theatre of Smock-Alley---His ill for-
tune----Comes back to England----Goes
abroad with a friend---Returns to Lon-
don---Offers his service to the managers of
Covent-garden---Dies.*

MR. Mossop was an actor of so established a reputation, and of such eminent merit, that his history and misfortunes deserve to be recorded; they will afford matter of reflection to every man, and especially to the young actor; it will give him an example of a player's imprudent conduct, followed by scenes of uncommon distress, and which ended in his certain ruin.

In the first volume of this narrative I endeavoured to delineate the most striking features of Mossop's character as an actor.

Notwith-

Notwithstanding he was utterly void of grace in deportment, and dignity in action, that he was aukward in his whole behaviour, and hard sometimes in his expression; I observed that he was, in degree of stage excellence, the third actor; a Garrick and a Barry only were his superiors; in parts of vehemence and rage he was almost unequalled; and in sentimental gravity, from the power of his voice, and the justness of his conceptions, he was a very commanding speaker. It is not to be wondered that Mossop wished to act the lover and the hero: to aim at general excellence is laudable; but repeated unsuccessful trials could not convince him that he was utterly unfit for tenderness or joy, for gaiety and vivacity: Caled, in the Siege of Damascus, the wild savage and enthusiastic Arabian, he acted with that force, fury and fire, which the character demanded; but he would much rather have risked the displeasure of the audience by attempting Phocyas, the lover and the hero, in the same play. He was always best where he could conceal, by the disguise of age or dress, his shambling

walk, and his ungain action. Of his lively and spirited characters, Pierre was the principal; in Richard the Third he was inferior only to Mr. Garrick; in the Duke, in Measure for Measure, he would have been excellent, if he had not dragged out his words to a length immeasurable; in the Ambitious Step-mother of Rowe, his Memnon was venerable and intrepid; his scene with the Priest of the Sun, in the first act, he spoke with tempered warmth, and demolished the frauds and holy trumpery of priestcraft with vigour and indignation.

Mr. Garrick knew his worth, and endeavoured to set him right, by encouraging him to represent such characters as nature had pointed out to him; but it was his great misfortune to be governed by flattering and injudicious acquaintance.

Mr. Fitzpatrick, who exposed himself by his wretched criticisms on the action and elocution of Mr. Garrick, professed himself the friend and admirer of Mossop. This actor was honest and well-meaning, but open to the insinuating address of those
about

about him, who continually instilled into his mind that Mr. Garrick kept him in a state of inferiority. In 1757 he took a trip to Ireland, and acted there with much applause. He returned about a year or two afterwards, and was entertained by Mr. Garrick in a most friendly manner, who again employed him in many principal parts. In 1761 he left the service of Mr. Garrick, to try his fortune once more in Dublin. Barry and Woodward very wisely hired him, at a very considerable income. He was extremely beneficial to his employers, in strengthening those tragedies in which two parts, of almost equal consequence, are skilfully contradistinguished from each other by their authors; Mark Antony and Ventidius, Pierre and Jaffier, Castalio and Chamont, Tamerlane and Bajazet, Lothario and Horatio, Phocyas and Caled, acted by Barry and Mossop, will serve to exemplify what I have asserted.

After Mossop had finished one successful campaign with his new masters, he was unhappily smitten with a strong inclination

to become the manager of a theatre. Barry and Woodward, who foresaw the consequences which must follow the opening of a theatre against them, with Mossop at the head of it, made him the large offer of a thousand pounds per annum, to prevail on him to relinquish his scheme. This proposal, unhappily for himself, he rejected; he was, it seems, encouraged by certain ladies of quality to draw together a company, and to act at the theatre in Smock-Alley.

For some short time novelty and variety of entertainment brought much company to his house; but, notwithstanding his great application to business, and his most laboured endeavours, his audiences visibly declined; nor could he, by inviting actors of eminence from England, support his theatre.

After struggling in vain, for seven or eight years together, with a variety of difficulties, and being reduced at last to a state of absolute bankruptcy, he left Dublin, and arrived in London not a little impaired in his health: however, he had still enough
of

of youth and vigour left, to have gained a competent income, with reputation to himself, and profit to any manager who should employ him; but here his obstinacy and haughtiness prevented his gaining that situation in life to which his merit entitled him. Mossop had a dry, reserved manner, and wanted the art of conciliating the minds of such as could befriend him; notwithstanding this, his simplicity of mind and rectitude of intention induced many to wish him well. He was advised to make application to Mr. Garrick; this he peremptorily refused, saying with some conscious dignity, at the same time, that Mr. Garrick knew that he was in London; by which he would plainly insinuate, that a proposal ought to come first from the manager; but as nothing offered of that kind, he accepted the invitation of a friend to accompany him in a tour through several parts of Europe. He returned in about a year after to London, much emaciated in person, and seemingly lowered in spirits.

It was the misfortune of this actor to be continually hurt by the improper interposition and wrong advice of men who called themselves his friends. Some very indiscreet measures were pursued to force him upon Mr. Garrick: a pamphlet was written by a gentleman of abilities, who set forth Mr. Mossop's powers in acting in a very striking manner; though I think the author was extremely injudicious in one part of his essay; for, at the same time that he displayed with all his might the excellences of Mossop, he took infinite pains to degrade the man who was most capable of serving him, by an invidious delineation of the decayed faculties of our admirable Roscius; the lustre of his eye, he said, was greatly diminished, and the strong expression of his countenance was every day wearing out; his voice too was broken and inarticulate; in short, he was so reduced in all his powers, that he could not now tread that stage with any vigour, of which it was owned that he had formerly been the great ornament. This was not surely a proper method of
paving

paving the way for Mossop's acting at Drury-lane, or of conciliating the mind of Mr. Garrick. This attempt failing, Mossop was soon after in treaty with the managers of Covent-garden, who seemed very willing to employ a man of his merit, and one who could act in many plays with Mr. Barry, and, by his weight, give new vigour to a variety of tragedies.

It has been peremptorily said, that a very celebrated actress refused to act in any play with this unfortunate man. This was an unexpected blow to one so greatly depressed, and in such circumstances; nevertheless, he endeavoured to recover his spirits, and sent word to the managers, that he was ready and willing to go on the stage with any actress they thought proper to cast into their plays: they returned for answer, that their business was now so settled, that it was not in their power to employ him. He died in a few days after of a broken heart, and in great poverty, Nov. 1773. Mr. Garrick proposed to bury him at his own expence, but Mr. Mossop's uncle prevented that offer from taking place.

C H A P. XLVI.

Mr. Barry visits London----He acts at the Opera-house, and at Mr. Foote's theatre, with Mrs. Dancer---His and Mrs. Dancer's engagement at Drury-lane---They quit that theatre, and are hired by the managers of Covent-garden----Mr. Barry afflicted with the gout, and other disorders---Dies---His character.

MR. Barry, after having experienced many vicissitudes of fortune in Dublin, where he sometimes had a large tide of good fortune and carried all before him, and was at other times obliged to give way to the temporary success of a rival theatre; at length turned a wishful look to London, the place where he had such large and valuable connections, where he had been so greatly admired, and where his merit had been rewarded with a greater income than had fallen to the lot of any other actor. In the summer of 1766 he arrived

arrived in London, and brought over with him Mrs. Dancer, who was afterwards Mrs. Barry; she was then gradually rising to that excellence in her profession which has since happily ranked her amongst our most celebrated actresses. As the theatres of Drury-lane and Covent-garden were then shut up, and Mr. Foote was in full possession of that part of the public which preferred his pieces to the round of Ranelagh or the walks of Vauxhall, Mr. Barry hired the King's Theatre in the Hay-market for a few nights, where he exhibited two or three of his most shining characters in tragedy, such as Othello and Jaffier. His Desdemona and Belvidera Mrs. Dancer acted with general approbation, but not with that full applause which afterwards a better acquaintance with her merit, drew from the audience. Lee's Iago and Pierre, at the same time, were said by all that were present to be critically and skilfully performed.

In the ensuing winter Mr. Barry went back to Dublin, to fulfil his engagements there. He returned the summer following; and soon after made an agreement with

Foote

Foote to act several nights at his theatre in the Hay-market, for his own emolument, upon paying a stated sum.

His great and established reputation, and Mrs. Dancer's merit, which every day became more and more conspicuous, drew together crowded audiences in the hottest days of July and August.

The managers of Drury-lane, who had lately felt the loss of Mrs. Cibber, and were deprived, at almost the same juncture, of Mr. Powell, on his purchasing a share in the patent of Covent-garden, thought it advisable to come to terms of agreement with Mr. Barry and Mrs. Dancer; their salary was at first about 1300*l.* per annum, which was advanced afterwards, as Mr. Lacy informed me, to 1500*l.*

Mr. Garrick, who then acted but seldom, endeavoured to make Barry well pleased with his situation, by giving him his choice of parts, and never calling upon him to do any thing which would either degrade or displease him; and by all methods consult-
ing

ing his ease as much as the business of the theatre would permit.

Barry was invited to act a considerable part in the tragedy of Zingis, which he accepted. The play was remarkable for giving a glaring picture of Indian manners; fine scenes, gay dresses, and an attempt at the magnificence of Eastern diction, seem to distinguish this tragedy from most others. However, it greatly pleased the people. Its success might possibly be owing, either to the strength of the representation, the novelty of the subject, or the grandeur of the exhibition; or indeed, with most probability, to these several causes combined.

Mr. Barry expressed a seeming satisfaction at the generous income, as well as ease, which he enjoyed, under the direction of his old master and competitor, Mr. Garrick; and indeed his stipend was accounted the more considerable, from his being so subject to chronical disorders, and more especially the gout; however, when his health permitted him to exert his powers, he
communi-

communicated his admirable feelings to the best company that London could produce.

In Murphy's Grecian Daughter, he and Mrs. Barry shone with unrivalled lustre; the feeble and affecting part of Evander was well adapted to the venerable figure and fine pathos of this declining great actor; and the filial piety and ardent spirit of the Grecian Daughter could not have been more happily displayed, in all their force, than by Mrs. Barry.

Mr. Barry, in the comedy of the Duel,* which, in the opinion of good judges, deserved a much better fate than it met with, for it was condemned on the first night of representation, gave the public an unexpected proof of his various excellences, in a part, where he maintained the authority of the father with tenderness, and the honour of the trader with dignity. Mr. Garrick

* The comedy of the Duel was written by Mr. O'Brien. The same author wrote a comedy, in two acts, called The Cross Purposes, which was acted with great applause at Covent Garden, and is still a very favourite piece.

was present during the whole play, and spoke of Barry's unexpected exertions, in this new character, with candour and warmth.

Miss Young greatly delighted the audience with a very good picture of family pride, in the character of Lady Margaret Sinclair, a Scotchwoman.

Notwithstanding that Mr. and Mrs. Barry had appeared to be perfectly satisfied with their station at Drury-lane, where both managers did all in their power to keep them in good humour; yet, upon some pretended disgust, trifling in itself, or, what is most probable, from the hopes of gaining a still larger income, overtures were made by them to the patentees of Covent-garden, who, after carefully canvassing their proposals, signed articles with Mr. and Mrs. Barry, by which they obtained, what we may suppose they most wished, an addition of at least 200*l.* per annum. This happened in 1774.

One of the plays acted at Covent-garden, with the greatest success, after the engagement

ment of this eminent couple, was the Distressed Mother: Mrs. Barry's Hermione was supposed to be inferior, in dignity of deportment, to Mrs. Fitzhenry's, in that character; nor did she equal her in the expression of grief and rage which distinguished the last scenes of that impassioned princess. But the Orestes of Barry was a master-piece; from the first scene of the play to the last, he interested the hearts of the audience; in the mad scene he at once terrified their imaginations, and roused all their tenderest emotions.

But this actor's infirmities increased upon him continually; and such were the encroachments which time and sickness were daily making upon his powers of acting, that his defects became too visible to the audience. In the intervals of pain, he seemed occasionally to recover his wonted vigour, and to shine forth with redoubled splendour; but these unusual exertions were but like the last gleams of the departing sun. He died January 10th, 1777; a complication of disorders put an end to a constitution

constitution which had long been shattered by violent fits of the gout.

Of all the tragic actors who have trod the English stage for these last fifty years, Mr. Barry was unquestionably the most pleasing. Since Booth and Wilkes, no actor had shewn the public a just idea of the hero or the lover; Barry gave dignity to the one, and passion to the other: in his person he was tall, without awkwardness; in his countenance handsome, without effeminacy; in his uttering of passion, the language of nature alone was communicated to the feelings of an audience.

If any player deserved the character of an unique, he certainly had a just claim to it. Many of the principal characters in our best plays must now either be suffered to lie dormant till another genius like him shall rouse them into life and spirit, or the public must be content to see them imperfectly represented. It has been said, that Colley Cibber preferred his Othello to the performances of Betterton and Booth in that part; and I should not wonder at it; for they, I believe, though most excellent actors,

actors, owed a great deal of their applause to art. Every word which Barry spoke in this the greatest character of the greatest poet, seemed to come from the heart; and I well remember, that I saw Colley Cibber in the boxes on the first night of Barry's Othello, loudly applauding him by frequent clapping of his hands; a practice by no means usual to the old man, even when he was very well pleased with an actor. But indeed the same heart-rending feelings which charmed the audience in Othello, diffused themselves through all Barry's acting, when the softer passions predominated, in Jaffier, Castalio, Romeo, Varanes, Phocias, Orestes. Richard the Third, and Macbeth, he never should have attempted, for he was deficient in representing the violent emotions of the soul; nor could a countenance so placid as his ever wear the strong impressions of despair and horror. His Lear, though not equal to Garrick's perfect exhibition of that part, from the dignity of his figure, and his tenderness of expression, perfectly adapted to some scenes of the part,

was

was very respectable. Booth, from a too classical taste, had no relish for the rants of Alexander, and could never be prevailed upon to act that part, which Montfort and Betterton had so highly graced. But Barry gave new vigour to the wild flights of the mad hero; he charmed the ladies repeatedly by the soft melody of his love complaints, and the noble ardour of his courtship.

Booth was certainly too squeamish in his judgment, for Alexander's situations are admirably suited to a powerful actor: the play itself has many beauties; notwithstanding it contains several speeches which more than border on bombast, no less a man than Mr. Addison has given his opinion in favour of it.

There was no passion of the tender kind so truly pathetic and forcible in any player as Barry, except Mrs. Cibber, who indeed excelled, in the expression of love, grief, tenderness, rage and jealousy, all I ever knew. Happy it was for the frequenters of the theatre when these two genuine children of nature united their efforts to charm an

attentive audience. Mrs. Cibber might be stiled indeed the daughter or sister of Mr. Garrick,* but could be only the mistress or wife of Barry.†

In a work of this kind variety of fact and anecdote will be more acceptable to the reader than that, to which I have no pretence, beauty of style, or justness of criticism. When Tom Chapman, an excellent comic actor, of whose merit I have taken notice in the first volume of these memoirs, was present during some of the most pathetic scenes in the Orphan between Barry in Castalio, and Mrs. Cibber in Monimia, he was so affected, that he burst into tears. This, he told me, was an involuntary act, of which he was not in the least ashamed; till he was assured by a critic, who sat next to him, that he ought not to have cried; and Chapman, though otherwise a sensible man, was fool enough to think the critic in the right.

Barry was the easiest man in the world to live with as a companion and friend: he

* Zara, Cordelia, Monimia, &c.

† Juliet, Rutland, Desdemona, Belvidera, &c. &c.

had as little learning as knowledge, but he was master of an irresistible power of persuasion. He certainly did not confine himself for many years within the limits of his income, which from the first was considerable, and afterwards very large. He was, indeed, the Mark Antony of the stage. Whether we consider his amorous disposition, or his love of expence, one of his greatest pleasures consisted in giving magnificent entertainments. In this article we may well compare our Mark Antony of the theatre to the Mark Antony of Rome.

Mr. Pelham, who was much delighted with Barry's acting, was pleased sometimes to send for him, and now and then to call at his apartments. He once invited himself to sup with Barry, who was greatly elated with the high honour of entertaining a first minister, and for that purpose he made the most magnificent preparation: but a profusion of elegant dishes, with the choicest and dearest wines, displeased the statesman; he reproved his host for his folly in feasting him as he himself would have treated

a foreign ambaffador, and never gave him another opportunity of expofing his want of judgment.

Barry had a gift of pleafing in converfation beyond moft men; but this muft be attributed to his manner, not the matter which he uttered. When he fpoke, the features of his countenance feemed to be charged with benevolence; his conviviality was entertaining, and his mirth agreeable; he was celebrated for telling an Irish ftory very happily, and better than any man; Mr. Garrick ufed to fay, that he would beat Barry's head off in telling all ftories but Irish ones; there was a naivete in his manner which retained all the falt of the jeft, without any grofs vulgarity.

C H A P. XLVII.

Mr. Foote and Mr. Garrick---Foote's envy and malevolence to Garrick----The latter praises the former, who constantly rails at and abuses the latter-----His design of exposing him in a mock procession---Dropt---Resumes his intention of bringing him on the stage---Reasons for it---Farther particulars relating to Mr. Garrick and Mr. Foote-----Foote's verses on Humour, &c.

FOOTE considered Mr. Garrick, almost from his first knowledge of him, as a rival in theatrical fame; and yet no two men were more opposite in their pretensions to stage merit: in acting, Mr. Garrick was, doubtless, an unlimited genius; Foote was restrained to certain characters of his own composition: though he had, for a few years, been hired at a handsome salary as an actor, all his efforts, both in tragedy and comedy, from Othello, his first attempt, down to Ben the Sailor, one of his last, were mean, disagreeable, and often

distorted by grimace and buffoonery. In his *Treatise of the Passions*, written about the year 1747, in which he brings to the bar the several abilities and defects of Garrick, Quin and Barry, he paid some very just compliments to several scenes of Mr. Garrick's *Lear*, yet at the same time indulged himself in pointing out his blemishes, as he called them, in his acting that character. As a writer, he spoke of him contemptuously; and, upon the whole, we plainly see he wished to lessen his consequence with the public. The pamphlet, however, bears the impression of genius.

Though this may prove that he considered him very early as a rival, yet it is almost impossible to date the origin of Foote's settled malevolence to Mr. Garrick; however, we may venture to say, that it did not break out with any degree of violence till after the duke of York had obtained a patent for him of the Hay-market theatre. They were then rival managers, though the periodical existence of Foote's theatre did not commence till Mr. Garrick's was in its wain.

wain. The Hay-market playhouse could not, agreeably to the words of the patent, open till the fifteenth of May, and Drury-lane was generally shut up in the beginning of June.

Whatever were Mr. Garrick's real thoughts of Foote, he continually spoke of him as a man of very great abilities, and the most entertaining companion he ever knew. He, notwithstanding, could have no affection for one whom, in his heart, he feared; all the praises which he bestowed on Foote, were, for that reason, suspicious; they were indeed thrown away upon him, for he constantly railed at Mr. Garrick in all companies; his abilities, as an actor, he questioned, in contradiction to all the world; his compositions, as a writer, he treated with scorn; virtues, as a member of society, he had none; he was covetous and tricking; in short, according to his opinion, he was every thing that was mean, and unworthy of a gentleman. Neither his family, his friends, or acquaintance, were spared by this strange wit, who run a tilt at every body, and was at the

same time careſſed, feared, admired, and hated by all. In the mean time, theſe rival wits would often meet at the houſes of perſons of faſhion, who were glad to have two ſuch gueſts at their table, tho' they certainly ſhould have entertained their friends ſeparately ; for Mr. Garrick was a *muta perſona* in the preſence of Foote ; he was all admiration when this genius entertained the company, and no man laughed more heartily at his lively ſallies than he did. It muſt be owned, that he tried all methods to conciliate Foote's mind ; ſo far at leaſt, as to prevail upon him to forbear his illiberal attacks upon him when abſent. The more ſenſibility Mr. Garrick diſcovered, the greater price the other put upon his ceaſing from hoſtilities. Lord Mansfield was not unwilling to ſilence ſuch a battery of ridicule as Foote could raiſe againſt him, or any man, the greateſt and the wiſeſt in the kingdom ; and often invited him to his table, where he ſometimes met the perſon againſt whom he was forming a conſpiracy to expoſe on the ſtage ; but Mr. Garrick, with the help
of

of a lord chief justice, unless with the farther aid of his warrant and tip-staff, could not have stopped the current of Foote's scandal.

The great success of the Stratford Jubilee, when exhibited, in the winter of 1770, at Drury-lane, inspired this envious man with the design of producing a mock procession in imitation of it, and of introducing Mr. Garrick upon his stage: he considered him as fit goods to bring to his market; a man so rich, so meritorious, so well known, so much admired, and so envied, was a prey too valuable not to be seized on for his own use; the foregoing it, he thought, would be losing a staple commodity, which would fill his house forty nights successively, or, perhaps, for the whole summer. In this mock procession a fellow was to be dressed up, and made as like Mr. Garrick as possible. It was intended, that some ragamuffin in the procession should address Roscius in the well-known lines of the poet-laureat,

A nation's taste depends on you,
Perhaps a nation's virtue too.

The

The representer of Mr. Garrick was to make no answer, but to cry, "Cock a doodle do!"

While this scheme was in embryo, Foote's necessities, which were brought on by a ridiculous parade of splendid living, by keeping a number of useless servants, and by treating with magnificent dinners those who laughed at his satire, and won his money at cards, for he was a great dupe at play; reduced him to the humiliating situation of borrowing money of the man whom he intended to expose to public ridicule. Five hundred pounds were lent to him by Mr. Garrick; and this sum was paid back in a pettish resentment, because it was pretended that Mr. Garrick's creatures had circulated a report that Mr. Foote was under obligations to him. By this time we may suppose he had formed his plan, and was resolved, or at least he so gave out, to put it in execution. He was at no pains to conceal his design from Mr. Garrick, who had early intelligence of the whole scheme. The uneasiness he felt upon the occasion could not be dissembled; he dreaded public
ridicule

ridicule as the worst of all misfortunes, and apprehended the ruin of that great reputation which he had been raising so many years. To resent an affront personally to a man with a wooden leg, would only have exposed him to laughter.

It was pleasant enough, during the suspension of hostilities, to see them meet on a visit, at a nobleman's door, alighting from their chariots: significant looks were exchanged before they spoke: Mr. Garrick broke silence first, "What is it, war or peace?" "O! peace, by all means," said the other, with much apparent glee; and the day was spent in great seeming cordiality.

What put an end to this project, I could never learn, whether a well-timed gratification, or Garrick's threats of serving him in kind. But of this last I never heard the least hint, though I am well persuaded that such a menace might probably have had its effect; for no man was so great a bully as Foote, nor was any man more timorous. At the time when he was dealing out his scandal at the Hay-market, and levelling all characters

acters for his private emolument, he was heard to declare, in a kind of agony, that he was afraid to take a news-paper in his hand, for fear of reading some outrageous abuse against himself or his friends.

But although the project of a mock procession was given up, Foote thought the ridiculing Garrick on the stage was a morsel too delicious to resign. At the very time when the mind of Mr. Garrick was disturbed by a scandalous and false insinuation, which the author of it publicly and solemnly afterwards disavowed, Mr. Foote, from a ridiculous pretence that Mr. Garrick kept his playhouse open purposely to distress him, by acting several of his most favourite characters, and by these means drawing all the play-going people to Drury-lane, resolved to shew his resentment in a manner the most offensive to Mr. Garrick, and profitable to himself.

He first attacked him, with much vehemence, in the news-papers, in the form of letters, fables, and dialogues. This was preparatory to his grand design of regaling the public

public with a feast of Roscius. The new scheme was, to introduce him in his puppet-show. To this end, a masque was made, that bore as near a resemblance as possible to the countenance of Mr. Garrick, and this he shewed to all his visitors; a pasteboard figure of a body was prepared, to be joined to the head; a man was to be concealed under this strange shell, who was, every now and then, to utter something which the author was to convey to him. But so fond was Foote of his favourite Cock a doodle do! that, as soon as the figure was introduced on the stage, he was ordered to clap his sides, and crow as loud as the cock in Hamlet.

This mock representation of Mr. Garrick was talked of for a long time, though not announced in the news-papers. He laboured to raise his fears and apprehensions, and at the same time to create an appetite in the public for so extraordinary a dish. That this project was afterwards laid aside, it was generally supposed, was owing to a sum of money which was borrowed, never
to

to be repaid; or, perhaps, to a gratification, the accepting of which was still more dishonourable: however, this is only conjecture.

Few people have been weak enough to suspect there could be any sincere friendship between rival wits; but that a man, in the intercourse of acquaintance, and interchange of friendly visits, (for Mr. Garrick dined sometimes with Foote, and he as often with Garrick) should meditate the art of tormenting the person with whom he not unfrequently spent a chearful day, seems to be above the common degree of civil hypocrisy with which the world is so completely blessed.

Mr. Garrick returned all the ungenerous behaviour of this eccentric genius towards him, by a very different conduct. When there was some talk of suppressing his Puppet-show, on various pretences, he exerted all his interest in the author's favour; and still more, when he laboured under the worst of all accusations, he did not desert him; he considered the whole as others did, and as the judge and jury afterwards

afterwards determined it, an infamous falsehood, and a base conspiracy to ruin him.

Though it is impossible to justify Foote's exposing the faults, or wounding the peace of any man or woman not obnoxious and hurtful to society; yet I believe we must place a good deal of his scandal to his profession and trade of a comic satirist. He considered what would best suit the palates of his guests; and though his genius was equal to general, as well as particular satire, yet the first cost him more pains, and the latter brought much more company to the boxes than the former; for nothing gives such pleasure as scandal, provided those who enjoy it are themselves exempt from it.

Foote's best pieces are not without a mixture of personalities; and, so far as they include striking objects of vice or folly, they fall into the plan of useful satire. The Minor, and the Devil on Two Sticks, are nearer to that species of comic satire, which does not descend to particular subjects; and yet they pointed at certain persons
whom

whom no one could mistake. But the exuberant fallies of the well-meaning patriot, who exceeds the bounds of temperance, may possibly be fair game to the theatric huntsman ; and the auctioneer who, under the mask of his profession, becomes a partner in the pillaging of a minor, for such a man I believe he draws Mr. Smirk, may think himself well treated in having his follies and peculiarities more strongly reprov'd, than those faults of which the law ought to take cognizance. But the sole question is, whether Mr. Smirk was really guilty of the roguery with which he is charged ; if he was, the punishment was too slight ; and if he was innocent, the author could not make him a sufficient reparation.

I am persuaded many a man has entered the theatre of the Hay-market under the apprehension of seeing himself served up to the public. Those who pretended to admire and value the satirist most, were exceedingly sollicitous to know the subject of a new comedy ; their hearts honestly told them, that they had no more claim to
exemption

exemption from ridicule than some whom he had unmercifully exposed : however, his intimates were soon delivered from their fears, for his vanity prompted him to communicate as fast as he composed ; and the public soon knew the next subject that was to be served up.

His original plan of the Bankrupt was, I am told, very different from what we find it in the comedy of that name ; his design was to have exposed the frauds of men who commence bankrupts with an intent to cheat their honest creditors ; and this would have afforded abundant matter for just and beneficial satire : but a gentleman, who had large and powerful connections, nay, a kingdom, to second him, happening at that time to fail, and to involve great numbers in his fall ; it was suggested to Foote, that an application would be made by the audience to this unhappy person ; and that, as he was really a man of worth, it would be extremely cruel to give room for malice to point him out as the intended subject of the comedy ; he im-

mediately altered the œconomy of his plot, and made it what it now is.

That, by the death of Foote, the public lost a great check on notorious vice and fashionable irregularity, no man will deny. Peter Aretine, who, by his satires, raised contributions on all the great men and princes of Europe, nay, bragged of receiving hush-money from the emperor of the Turks, was not more dreaded than Foote. He cared not whether the object of his satire was in high or low life, provided the peculiarities were prominent enough, and the person well known.

A certain printer, who died a few years since, thought himself very happy to wait upon Mr. Foote, and to bring him the news of the day. This man attended his levee constantly: but no absurdity of character could escape the discerning eye of our English Aristophanes; by seeing Mr. Type frequently, he began to think of a nich for him in one of his theatrical structures; and indeed the man, in his person, look, speech, and behaviour, was

as

as grotesque as Foote could have wished him to be. The outline was drawn, and the colours were just prepared to be laid on, when the author communicated his intention to some of his acquaintance, who spread about a report of this new character. The friends of the printer were extremely alarm'd for him; they knew he would have very tender feelings for himself, though, in his letters and paragraphs, he had never shewn the least mercy to any person living, when the law could not interpose. After much strong expostulation, and many earnest intreaties, the author was prevailed upon to give up his prey, though with much reluctance.

Foote was certainly a great and fertile genius; his comic vein was equal, if not superior, to that of any writer of the age: his dramatic pieces were, most of them, it is true, unfinished, and several of them little more than sketches; but they are the sketches of a master, of one who, if he had laboured more, could have brought them nearer to perfection.

Foote saw the follies and vices of mankind with a quick and discerning eye; his discrimination of characters was critical and exact; his humour pleasant, his ridicule keen, his satire pungent, and his wit brilliant and exuberant. He described with fidelity the changeable follies and fashions of the times; and his pieces, like those of Ben Jonson, were calculated to please the audience of the day; and for this reason posterity will scarce know any thing of them. Of Ben Jonson's plays it was observed, above sixty years since, that they could not be represented for want of proper actors; the same may be said of the productions of Mr. Foote.

From his best comedies Mr. Colman finds little assistance: when Weston dropt into the grave, half the merit of them was lost; the death of the author put the finishing stroke to them.

In a prologue to the Nabob, one of his best comedies, which he spoke at Dublin in 1773, Mr. Foote complimented the Irish with producing that best plant of the

the dramatic foil called Humour. The lines are pointed, and well worth reading.

—Frugal Nature, with an equal hand,
Bestows peculiar gifts on every land ;
To France she gave the rapid repartee,
Bows and bon mots, fibs, fashions, flattery,
Shrugs, grins, grimace, and sportive gaiety. }
Arm'd with the whole artillery of love,
Latium's soft sons possess the power to move :
Humour, the foremost of the festive crew,
Source of the comic scene, she gave to you ;
Humour, with arched brow, and leering eye,
Shrewd, solemn, sneering, subtle, slow and fly ;
Serious herself, yet laughter still provoking,
by teasing, tickling, jeering, gibing, joking :
Impartial gift, that owns nor rank nor birth !
'Tis their's who rule the helm, or till the earth ;
Their's, who in senates wage the wordy war,
And their's whose humble lot conducts the car.
If ought deriv'd from her adorns my strain,
You gave, at least discover'd, first the vein.

Two bon mots on Mr. Garrick's love of money, and fondness for acting, Foote took care to repeat as often as they came into his mind.

That he loved money so well, that, whenever he should retire from the stage, he was sure he would commence banker's clerk, for the pleasure of continually counting over cash.

As for the stage, he was so fond of it, that, rather than not play, he would act in a tavern kitchen for a sop in the pan.

C H A P. XLVIII.

Mr. Cumberland---A prolific writer---Banishment of Cicero---Brothers---Attacks the writers of the age in his prologue---Not so original as he pretends to be---Instances of his borrowing from others---West-Indian, his best play, commended---Major O Flarty---Fashionable Lovers---Colin a bad Scotchman---Druid---A play from Novels---Timon of Athens---No improvement of the original---Choleric Man---Supported by the acting---Mr. Cumberland's dread of the critics---Attacks writers in the news-papers, in hopes of silencing them---His opinion of himself---Goldsmith's verses on him.

MR. Cumberland, the son of the bishop of that name, and nephew to the famous Dr. Richard Bentley, about the year 1762 brought his first play to Mr. Garrick, called the Banishment of Cicero; it was rejected, as a piece, though classical,

yet not fit for the stage. The author, in 1770, offered his comedy, called the Brothers, to Mr. Colman, which was accepted, and acted for above twelve nights successively with much approbation.

The manager did all manner of justice to this comedy, by disposing the parts amongst the principal performers: Mrs. Yates condescended to act a very trifling character; Sophia, a young lady supposed to be under twenty; Mr. Woodward's Captain Ironsides was a true picture of a brave English tar.

The author opened his prologue with a brisk attack upon his brother writers, somewhat, I think, inauspiciously; after reproaching them in pretty severe, though trite terms, with gleaning from novels, and picking up offals from every shop and stall, and filching from each periodical work, or magazine; and, after railing at them for stealing the vile refuse of French writers, he boldly promised something solid and genuine of English manufacture.

—Not so our bard ; to-night, he bids me say,
 You shall receive and judge *an English play*.
 From no man's jest *he draws felonious praise*,
 Nor from his neighbour's garden crops his bays :
 From his own breast the filial story flows,
 And the free scene no foreign master knows.
 Nor only tenders he his work as new ;
 He hopes 'tis good, or would not give it you.

If some people were not apt to forget as fast as they read, I should suspect that the author depended upon the want of recollection or discernment in his auditors ; for surely the Brothers is beholden to more than one English author : I will not presume to charge him with stealing foreign and contraband goods for the world ; but surely Captain Ironsides is our old friend Ned Bowling dramatically dressed, and taken from a well-known work of Dr. Smollet ; and I see no harm in that ; Ned had never trod the stage before, and I was glad to see him make so good a figure upon the theatrical boards. But this is not all the obligation Mr. Cumberland owes to modern authors :
 we

we have in our English comedies several diverting squabbles between scolding wives and henpeck'd husbands; but the last scene of the fourth act, between Sir Benjamin Dove and his lady, is apparently an imitation of another very like it in Mr. Colman's *Jealous Wife*; the author has not indeed varied it very much: the following words of Lady Dove, who is almost in the same situation as Mrs. Oakly, ready to faint and die away like her, will convince the author that he is not quite so original as he pretends to be:

“Would you murder me, you brute in human shape?”

“Would you break my heart, you tyrant?” *

Much more there is to the same purpose. Indeed, Mrs. Oakly is a lady not so far advanced in effrontery as Lady Dove, who intreats her husband to be allowed the company of her gallant in his own house, tho' he had intimated to her, that he suspected an improper commerce between them; and

* O you monster! you villain! wou'd you let me die for want of help? &c. &c.—*Jealous Wife*, Act V.

Sir Benjamin, who has conquered his wife's petulance, has not the courage to turn the man out of his doors whom he believes to be his dishonourer. More plagiarism and impropriety, I believe, might be pointed out in the Brothers ; but the play has merit, and was a very good first piece.

Mr. Garrick was so well pleased with reading the West-Indian, that, with much diligence and care, it was acted soon after it was put into his hands ; and this play is Mr. Cumberland's master-piece ; the story is throughout told with as little improbability as most stage fables are ; the characters are in nature, and judiciously delineated ; the incidents arise fairly from the plot ; the catastrophe, as well as many other situations in the comedy, is very affecting. I shall not dwell longer upon what is so well known to every body : Belcour is an original, which was well supported by Mr. King ; O Flarty was inimitably acted by Moody, but is no invention of the author ; Sir Callochan Obrallachan is the model from which he took the Irish Major ; nor would Mr. Macklin have made his honest Hibernian

nian act so absurdly and dishonourably as O Flarty, who insists upon Dudley's complying with the contents of a letter at the hazard of both their lives, though he does not know a syllable contained in that letter. The avowing his marrying five wives, whom he believes all to be alive and merry, is a shocking derogation from O Flarty's character of a man of worth: the words *a la militaire* were substituted by the actor, who thought, very judiciously, that the avowal of bigamy was too gross, without a salvo.

An author who could write so successful a comedy as the *West-Indian*, was secure in offering a play to the manager of any playhouse. Mr. Cumberland's *Timon*, with considerable alterations, was his next piece, proposed to Mr. Garrick, and accepted.

Those who have read Shadwell's *Timon* will not, I believe, scruple to prefer it to Mr. Cumberland's, though both the alterers had better have forborn a task to which they were very unequal. It is almost impossible to graft large branches upon the old stock of Shakespeare; none have succeeded

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ceeded in their alterations of that poet, but such as have confined themselves to the lopping off a few superfluous boughs, and adding, where necessary, some small slips of their own, and that too with the utmost care and caution.

Mr. Cumberland has, by his management, utterly destroyed all pity for the principal character of the play. Shadwell gave Timon a mistress, who never forsook him in his distress; but Mr. Cumberland has raised him up a daughter, whose fortune the father profusely spends on flatterers and sycophants: this destroys all probability, as well as extinguishes commiseration. What generous and noble minded man, as Shakespeare has drawn his Timon, would be guilty of such baseness, as to wrong his child, by treating his visitors with the wealth that should be reserved for her portion?

It is indeed a miserable alteration of one of Shakespeare's noblest productions. There is not, perhaps, in any work, antient or modern, more just reflection and admirable satire, than in Timon: Cumberland and his
original

original do not in the least assimilate, for in their styles they are widely different; some excellent scenes of Shakespeare are entirely omitted, and others grossly mutilated.

Melancholy plot and sentimental dialogue seem to be the great favourites of this writer. The Fashionable Lover, which Mr. Cumberland prevailed on Mr. Garrick to act in 1772, went through its usual periodical journey, or, perhaps, a little longer, but has never been resumed since. The plot is intricate, and the catastrophe of the weeping fort; abundance of situations there are in it, some of them improbable, some trifling, and others affecting; Mr. Cumberland's comic muse seems to be always in mourning. The Macaroni, Lord Abberville, was not ill conceived by the author, and was acted with great propriety by Dodd. Aubrey, and his daughter Augusta, were pathetic children of Melpomene, and well adapted to the fine feelings of Mr. and Mrs. Barry. Mortimer is a good character, though not new; he pleases, because he exhibits to us a
generous

generous mind, and is a warm lover of justice and humanity; and this character shewed well in Mr. King, who represented it. Bridgemore is a fellow fitter for the cells of Newgate, and the Old Bailey, than to figure in a comedy acted before a polite audience, and on a theatre from which all such ruffians should be banished. The actions of thieves, in my opinion, are not cognizable in the court of Thalia.

Mr. Cumberland values himself upon putting an end to the provincial jargon of the stage, and that mean custom of ridiculing a man because he is born in a particular country; and in this he is certainly a friend to humanity. The Scots and Irish are greatly obliged to his candour; but what have the Welch done, to be so particularly stigmatized? Poor Dr. Druid is a stupid hunter after the worst part of the virtù, and is a wretch void of humanity: he was acted by Baddeley, with that closeness to nature and character that distinguishes his style of playing. The Scotchman, Colin, is a great part in the Fashionable Lover, and
the

the author's chorus to carry on his plot. But Mr. Cumberland knows but little of the Scotch idiom; his phraseology is properly English, with a Scotch accent; a few vulgar expressions, such as, Hoot! hoot! man! and, the de'el burst your weam, &c. make the whole of the Scotch dialect in this play. What Scotchman, speaking of a lord, says laird? yet Colin repeats this twenty times in the play.

I shall not trouble my readers with an examination of all Mr. Cumberland's dramatic pieces, which are about a dozen in number; for no author's muse, for the time, has been so prolific. The Choleric Man was represented at Drury-lane about a year or two before Mr. Garrick left the stage. The criticisms thrown out in the news-papers against this play, seem to have affected the author very much. In his Dedication to Detraction, he enters into a long defence of Terence, and his manner of writing comedy, and endeavours to convince his anonymous opponent of malice and ignorance. His learned account of antient comedies, and their authors, is
curious,

curious, though not very entertaining; one poor author, whose name was Eupolis, the Foote of those days, was cast into the sea, and drowned, he says, for lampooning Alcibiades, or for some such crime. Mr. Cumberland tuggs too much at the critic's arrow in his side, and yet affects to despise the hand from whence it came. All laboured vindications of trifles should be avoided. This comedy is taken from the Adelphi of Terence, says the author. The general idea is indeed borrowed from that writer, but neither the characters nor manners of Mr. Cumberland's play are derived from that source: Mr. Manlove indeed bears some resemblance to the outline of Mitio, and that is all I can perceive of Terence in this piece. Mr. Cumberland tells us, that he never read Shadwell's Squire of Alsatia; we readily believe him; bad as it is, that comedy is a better composition than the Choleric Man; the plot of this last is highly improbable; many of the scenes are farcical, and depend upon mistakes which could never have happened: Nightshade, who stands for the Demea of Terence, is a wretch without the least tincture of humanity;

he is called in the play a man of humour indeed, but such a one as is fit for no place but Bedlam.

Weston, by his admirable action, in my opinion, saved the play; he was placed in such critical situations, as few actors could have escaped from with safety, much less applause. A player who is obliged to fill up three different scenes of drunkenness, has a difficult task to go through; but this was performed by Weston with great skill, and equal success.

It has been said that Mr. Garrick, after he had left the stage, recommended the *Battle of Hastings* to Mr. Sheridan with great warmth, from an earnest desire to oblige the author, who, on this occasion, did not seem to have a proper sense of Mr. Garrick's friendship, and that this greatly affected him; that he was extremely displeased, and on that occasion expressed himself with some warmth, to find that all his endeavours to serve Mr. Cumberland, and promote the success of his plays, did not beget that return which he might with reason have expected.

The

The Battle of Hastings is what we call a Pasticio, a work made up of centos from various authors, and more particularly from Shakespeare. Mr. Garrick was asked by several persons his judgment of that tragedy; his constant answer was, *Sir, what all the world says, must be true.* No explanation of his meaning could be drawn from him.

Mr. Cumberland is unquestionably a man of very considerable abilities; 'tis his misfortune to rate them greatly above their real value, and to suppose that he has no equal. There are many writers in this metropolis whose merit is not inferior to that of this gentleman; he is one star in the same firmament, where many others shine with equal brightness. Mr. Cumberland should consider too, that an author, by too much indulging the fluency of his fancy, and the rapidity of his pen, may possibly write below himself. Let his Pegasus go to graze for a reasonable time, and he will return to the race with renewed vigour.

He is too young a man to have the advice of Horace applied to him,

Solve senescentem, mature sanus, equum.

But, as a man sometimes makes himself old before his time, by great and continued intemperance; so may an author, by writing too fast, exhaust his stock of genius.

The news-writers have given great offence to this author by their criticising his plays; his resentments have been too great for the provocation. Every work of art that comes before the eye of the public, lies open to the examination of every body; and men will, in this country, freely write what they freely think. A news-paper is the best channel through which information, amusement and instruction, can be conveyed; it may sometimes be foul and impure, but, in general, the streams which pass through it must be clear and beneficial, otherwise it would soon be stopped up.

Good Christians do not know what obligations they owe Mr. Cumberland.

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By the power of his eloquence, and the strength of his arguments, he converted, some time before his death, that wicked unbeliever, Samuel Foote, to the Christian faith: he assured his friends, that if he had lived a little longer, he did not doubt but he should have compleated his work, and made an honest man of him.

Mr. Cumberland, by his writings, appears to be a benevolent man, and such a one must be beloved by all the world.

I am certain I shall not displease the reader by quoting in this place Dr. Goldsmith's admirable character of this gentleman, in his poem of the Retaliation.

Here Cumberland lies, having acted his parts ;
The Terence of England, the mender of hearts ;
A flattering painter, who made it his care
To draw men as they ought to be, not as they are :
His gallants are all faultless, his women divine ;
And Comedy wonders at being so fine.
Like a tragedy queen, he has dizen'd her out,
Or rather like Tragedy giving a rout.
His fools have their follies so lost in a crowd
Of virtues and feelings, that Folly grows proud ;

And coxcombs, alike in their failings alone,
Adopting his portraits, are proud of their own.
Say, where has our poet this malady caught ?
Or wherefore his characters thus without fault ?
Say, was it, that vainly directing his view
To find out men's virtues, and finding them few,
Quite sick of pursuing each troublesome elf,
He grew lazy at last, and drew from himself ?

I should not forget to inform my readers that Mr. Cumberland is very conversant in the polite arts, and particularly in painting and music : of the first, his observations on the pictures of great artists in the Choleric Man, will be a substantial proof.

The airs to Calypso, and the Widow of Delphi, must be a test of his taste in music ; though I cannot help saying, that I am sorry to hear that he prefers Butler to Handel, whom, perhaps, through ignorance, I esteemed to be the Shakespeare of musicians ; he declares, it seems, that he hopes in a very short time, no oratorio of that great man will be performed in this country.

C H A P. XLIX.

Death of Mr. Lacy---Mr. Garrick sole manager---Afflicted with chronical disorders---Alonzo-----Braganza---Bon Ton-----The Runaway---Observations on them, and the representation of them, &c.

ON the death of Mr. Lacy, joint patentee of Drury-lane with Mr. Garrick, in 1773, the whole management of the theatre devolved on the surviving sharer in the patent. He was now advanced to within a few years of threescore; he had been much afflicted with chronical disorders, sometimes with the gout, which was rather an occasional visitor than a constant companion; but more often with the stone and gravel, which never left him without an unkind token of a speedy return. To relieve himself from the excruciating pains of this dreadful disorder, he was persuaded to use lixivium, and other soap medicines, which, in the end, proved very prejudicial to his health. Notwithstanding the frequent relapses into this distemper were

alarming, his friends thought that a retirement from the stage, while he preserved a moderate share of strength and spirits, would be more unfriendly to him than the prosecution of a business which he could make a matter of amusement, rather than a toilsome imposition.

Mr. John Home, although he had not much reason to be satisfied with the applause and profit which he had gained by his *Fatal Discovery*, was tempted once more to launch out into the theatrical ocean, and to present to his friend Mr. Garrick, the tragedy of *Alonzo*; and this I esteem to be a play second only to his *Douglas*. The plot is indeed improbable, and founded on the romantic notion of deciding the fate of kingdoms by single combat.* The heiress of the state is involved in the dispute, and she and a whole people are transferred to the champion who defeats his adversary. The plot of *Alonzo* is extremely intricate, and the incidents various.

* The tragedy of *Almeyda*, founded on a similar plan, and written by a daughter of Mr. Mallet, had been acted at Drury-lane, in 1771, with applause.

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Trifles, light as air, are to the jealous
Confirmations strong, as proofs of holy writ.

But surely the jealousy of Alonzo is less ponderous than air itself; the whole story of his gloomy passion, and his agonizing feelings during his absence from his wife for the space of 18 years, is highly improbable, and beyond any thing but the histories of knight errantry and the tales of necromancy. However, let us admit the probability of the story, and the whole is consistent. The language is poetical, though not always dramatic, for it is generally too much raised for scenes of passion, and approaches too often to the epic style; some inaccuracies or Scotticisms may be now and then also observed to have escaped the writer: the sentiments are strong and sometimes pathetic, the situations are interesting, and the catastrophe affecting. Ormisinda's description of the savage and melancholy mortifications of her husband in the dreary wastes of Africa, and on mount Atlas, approaches to the sublime in the terrible graces.

Teresa's

Teresa's picture of a lovely form affected by grief and languor, is elegant and picturesque :

The beam that gilds the early morn of youth,
Yields to the splendor of a riper hour ;
The rose that was so fair in bud, is blown ;
And grief and care, though they have dwelt with
thee,

Have left no traces of their visitation,
But an impression sweet of melancholy,
Which captivates the soul. Unskilful they
Who dress the Queen of Love in wanton smiles ;
Brightest she shines amidst a show'r of tears ;
The graces that adorn her beauty most,
Are softness, sensibility, and pity.

Ormifinda's apprehensions for the safety of her son, mixed with her praises of his courage, convey the most pleasing whisperings of nature, which were feelingly communicated to the audience by the skilful performer. The author, in his advertisement, gratefully acknowledges his great obligations to Mrs. Barry, who never more tenderly or more truly touched the passions than in this play.

The

The Maid of the Oaks, in the title, holds out the idea of pastoral simplicity. We have, indeed, a wedding in the country, celebrated by a fete champetre; but two characters of high fashion bring us back to St. James's and Grosvenor Square. They present us with a picture at length of a town life, and all the fashionable irregularities of persons of quality enraptured with the bon ton. The coterie, high play, scandal, free conversation, news-paper abuse, frolic, &c. are introduced in the garden, and among the oaks and shrubberies of honest Mr. Oldworth. The hint of representing a fete champetre on the stage was taken from one exhibited by a nobleman in the summer of 1773; permission was given to the author to employ the music, and to copy some of its decorations. Mr. Garrick was greatly pleased with the thought of a fete champetre for his theatre; and when the outline was shewn him, encouraged the writer to proceed; he persuaded him to alter his original plan, which was simple, and confined to two acts, and to extend it

to

to the usual length of a play. The author gratefully acknowledges, in his advertisement, the assistance of the manager; and, I think, his hand may be fairly traced here and there.

The Maid of the Oaks is a new species of dramatic writing, in which the poet, the painter, the musician, the carpenter, the actor, the singer and dancer, all combine their several powers to make a rich olio of theatrical representation: it is certainly a very pleasing entertainment of the stage.

But I cannot help observing, that the author must have been very young, or have known little of human nature, to suppose a father could live with his child till she was eighteen or twenty years of age, without revealing to her the secret of her birth; this is more than natural affection can bear. What a tale of falsehood too must be hatched, and continually supported, to carry on this unnecessary imposition for such a number of years! Could a father bear to see the uneasiness of mind which a generous girl must feel from her situation,
 who

who lives upon charity, and knows nothing of her parents? I cannot help saying it is a pitiful stage contrivance, and am surpris'd a man of Mr. Garrick's judgment could overlook it.

Lady Bab Lardoon is, I think, an original character in high life. None but a man of rank, or a person extremely familiar with the bon ton, could have drawn such a finished portrait of a gay young woman of quality, who slides so easily and elegantly into the fashionable fopperies and wild excesses of the age, without being absolutely corrupted by them.

I have already spoken of Mrs. Abington's most perfect action in Lady Bab. Maria, the supposed orphan, and real daughter of Oldworth, could not fall into properer hands than Mrs. Baddeley's, whose native simplicity and genuine sensibility can receive no advantage from art or instruction. Mr. James Aikin put on, with ease, the benevolent Oldworth. The sound judgment, propriety of behaviour, and genteel deportment of this actor, recommend him to
the

the esteem of the public in a variety of parts. Old Groveby is a character of humour, but I think not entirely new.

Poor Weston ! Hurry was one of his last parts. I need not tell those who remember him, that when he came on or went off the stage, that in Hurry, as in all other characters which he acted, he threw the audience into a loud fit of mirth, without discomposing a muscle of his features. Mr. Vernon, Mr. Bannister, and that pleasing comic singer, Mrs. Wrighten, contributed much to the general pleasure derived from the Maid of the Oaks.

The tragedy of Braganza was written by an old acquaintance of Mr. Garrick, Capt. Jephson, and warmly recommended to his care by his intimate friend, Mr. Tyghe.

There is no little difficulty in raising a dramatic tale on a well known part of modern history, and of no very late date. The characters and incidents are so well known, that little room is left for invention ; and the author must tread cautiously, as well as firmly, on ground with which every body is acquainted.

It

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It has been judiciously observed, that the author found it difficult, from the nature of his plot, which required him to begin as nearly as possible to the great event, to conduct it with ease, as well as probability: it has been observed too, that the frequent meetings of the conspirators are long and tedious; but it must be confessed, that the incident, which is the author's own invention, is well contrived, and very dramatic.

The interview between Velasquez, the minister, and Ramirez, the priest, is written with great art, and with all the warm colouring of genius; few tragedies of this century can shew any scene equal to it.

Two speeches of Velasquez, in which he employs all his art to prevail upon the priest to forego the painful duties of his function, by tempting him with the view of wealth, honour and rank, are rich in strong sentiment and beautiful diction. The first of these speeches is here inserted:

Say,

Say, can you be content, in these poor weeds,
To know no earthly hopes beyond a cloyster?
But, stretch'd on musty matts, in noisome caves,
To rouse at midnight bells, and mutter prayers
For souls beyond their reach, to senseless saints?
To wage perpetual war with nature's bounty?
To blacken sick men's chambers, and be number'd
With the loath'd leavings of mortality,
The watch-light, hour-glass, and the nauseous phial?
Are these the ends of life?—Was this fine frame,
Nerves exquisitely textur'd, soft desires,
Aspiring thoughts, this comprehensive soul,
With all her train of god-like faculties,
Given to be sunk in this vile drudgery?

The description of the dutchess of Braganza sailing with the duke up the Tagus to Lisbon, is described with great poetical fancy, and is only inferior to Oenobarbus's picture of Cleopatra falling down the Cydnus.

The Portuguese detestation of the Spaniards is expressed with propriety and energy; and has lately been applied in the news-papers, but with what truth I know

know not, to that hatred which the Americans are said now to cherish against the people of Great-Britain.

—————Antipathy to Spain

Is here hereditary ; 'tis nature's instinct,
'Tis principle, religion, vital heat.
Old men to list'ning sons, with their last breath,
Bequeath it as a dying legacy :
Infants imbibe it at the mother's breast ;
It circles with their blood, spreads with their frame ;
Its fountain is the heart ; and, 'till that fails,
The stream it fed can never cease to flow.

The scene between the Duke and Dutchess of Braganza, in the fourth act, during the apprehensions of Velasquez having discover'd the plot, is conducted with skill, and some portions of it are pathetically affecting ; but the scene in the 5th act between the Dutchess and Velasquez, the Duke and the Conspirators, is a mere theatrical trick, to secure the applause of the audience ; and tho' it produced the proposed effect, is, in my opinion, unworthy of the author.

The language, it is said by the critics, is in some places too laboured and metapho-

rical, and in others obscure and uncouth. If this should be granted, yet on the whole we have not often read lines so poetical, pure, and elegant, as the scenes of Braganza.

No dramatic piece was ever so extolled before its performance as this tragedy; no wonder if it fell short of public expectation, when raised to such a height as none but a Shakespeare or an Otway could have satisfied.

When Mr. Garrick acted a part in a play, his genius had raised him to that eminence, that he was considered by the greatest part of the spectators as the only object worthy of attention. However, it must be granted, that when the abilities of the performers are nearer upon a level, and the parts of a dramatic piece are disposed with judgment, much rational delight will result to the audience. For example, no plays have given more real satisfaction to the people, than the *School for Scandal*, and the *Clandestine Marriage*, because all the parts are uniformly supported. In those comedies or tragedies, in which the manager

nager himself appeared, there was not that necessity of niceness in apportioning the several characters, and of weighing the merits of each actor; for he was himself the spectacle.

Braganza had all the advantages which acting could give it. The unfortunate Reddish, though not elegant or striking in his figure, or happy in the expression of his countenance, was not without taste in speaking, spirit in action, and ease in deportment. His great misfortune was, that by an habitual smile which he had contracted, he gave no just discrimination of the passions of grief and joy, love and jealousy. His Duke of Braganza was, notwithstanding, a very commendable performance. Mrs. Yates, in the part of the Dutcheis, was so much his superior in the art of speaking, so beautiful in her person, and graceful in her movement, that Reddish appeared to a greater disadvantage than he would with an inferior actress.

The Velasquez of Smith was what the writer designed him to be, artful, daring,

cruel, treacherous, and profligate. Mr. Smith, from his first attempt in Theodosius in 1753, to the present hour, has, by uniform good conduct, supported himself in the general esteem of the people, whose favourite he certainly is, and deserves to be; for no man is more indefatigable in the exertion of his talents, in a great variety of characters in tragedy and comedy. To examine his merit minutely would be uncandid; especially when, in the aggregate, it is very considerable. I believe the best judges prefer his action in the sock to that of the buskin. He is distinguished amongst the players by the name of Gentleman Smith; I suppose on account of his liberal education, and his being the constant companion of gentlemen and men of rank.

Mr. Brereton, in the part of Mendoza, gave the public a happy preface of that improved state of acting to which he is now arrived. When he has thrown off that diffidence which hangs about him, and has acquired greater confidence in his power to please, I dare venture to prophesy he will be an excellent performer.

The

The Bon Ton, a comedy in two acts, is a well timed satirical piece, in which the profligate fashions of the age, imported from France and Italy, and greedily swallowed by the high-born fools of London, are well contrasted with the plain downright manners of an honest country gentleman, who, by an accidental visit to the metropolis, discovers a most shocking metamorphosis in the morals of both sexes, and more especially exemplified amongst his own relations.

The author, Mr. Garrick, in a short advertisement prefixed to this little comedy, was glad to embrace an occasion to do justice to the merit and integrity of Mr. Thomas King, the actor, in the following terms: "This little drama was brought out last season for the benefit of Mr. King, as a token of regard for one, who, during a long engagement, was never known, unless confined by real illness, to disappoint the public, or distress the managers." Mr. Garrick, at the same time, bore testimony to the excellence of all the performers in the Bon Ton; and, indeed, he could not

say too much of their meriting the approbation of the audience.

The excellent prologue of Mr. Colman exhibits several humourous descriptions of the Bon Ton taken from the gross ideas of it swallowed by the ridiculous votaries of pleasure. It is an excellent supplement to this manly chastisement of vicious manners, adopted from the glaring absurdities of travelling fops.

The last play which Mr. Garrick (as we are informed by the author herself) favoured, cherished, and improved, and with great sollicitude embellished, was the Runaway. That he was of all managers the most able to be of service to the writer of a play, will be acknowledged; but few authors have been so particular in specifying the several reasons for it as Mrs. Cowley.

The Runaway is a work of a young imagination; a genuine, though careless, picture of natural manners; where the language is flowing; the characters, though slightly, yet are faithfully delineated; and where wit, humour and morality, combine to furnish out an agreeable entertainment.

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From Mrs. Cowley's *Runaway*, a better comedy, it was conjectured, would soon be presented to the public, by the same author. The *Belle's Stratagem* has more than answered the most sanguine expectations which could be formed of her capacity.

Miss Hardy's scheme of conquering the prejudices of her lover, by making him first hate her and afterwards love her, is such a one as a woman only could form: man, wrapt up in his solid judgment and wonderful sagacity, would never have suffered it to enter into his head. But the audience, by the loud and repeated applauses given to the catastrophe, amply justified the oeconomy of the play. Though to speak of this comedy is digressive, as it carries me beyond my plan, which reaches no farther than the administration of the stage by Mr. Garrick; yet, I think it is but paying a proper tribute for the pleasure which this agreeable dramatic piece gave me, to dwell a little upon its peculiar and distinctive merit.

The satire is of that kind which will best please and instruct a generous and polite audience: it tends to reform irregular man-

ners, and fashionable follies, without the language of disgusting severity, and illiberal reproach, which, in my opinion, ought ever to be strangers to genteel comedy. The writer, tho' she does by no means want wit, does not aim or strain at it. Her knowledge of manners in high life is as exact as if she had lived with people of rank from her infancy. Mrs. Rattle's description of a fine lady is worthy of Cibber or Sheridan. The contrast between present dissipation and exploded sobriety is well drawn, and gives an animating vigour to the scene. The characters are all of them such as may be found in life: the high-bred man of fashion, the sober country gentleman, the good-natured, odd, whimsical father, the gay town insect of fashion, who receives a tint of folly from every object he meets, the free, romantic, high-spirited girl, the lady of the town, the placid and complying wife; in short, the whole groupe is composed of such as an audience will acknowledge to be the sons and daughters of Adam and Eve, and of the present generation. I could wish
the

the auction scene was left out entirely, and the madness of Doricour a little shortened.

Few plays have been more perfectly acted in all their parts than the Belle's Stratagem. To say that Miss Young surprized the public with unexpected excellence, would, perhaps, be esteemed a cold compliment to an accomplished actress; yet, we may pay this tribute to her extraordinary merit in the part of Miss Hardy, that her singing agreeably, and dancing gracefully, was a most pleasing addition to her speaking and action. Mrs. Mattocks may boast of enjoying so many requisites for an excellent actress, that I most heartily wish she would do herself the justice not to copy another, when she is so rich in merit herself. The most severe satirist, who bestows one look on Mrs. Hartly, must be instantly disarmed, and turn all his censure to panegyric. The calm and lovely innocence of Lady Touchwood could by no body be so happily represented as by this actress.

I am afraid we have no real fine gentleman now upon the stage but Mr. Lewis,
who,

who, in Doricour, drew the character of a gay young fellow, just returned from his travels, enflamed with the love of foreign customs and manners, but not absolutely devoted to them. Lewis's manner is very graceful and unembarrassed. His volubility in speaking, sometimes makes him inarticulate; this is a fault I could wish he would avoid.

Mr. Wroughton, in Sir William Touchwood, was the bold reprover of vice which wears the gay mask of fashion, and the honest advocate of regularity and sobriety discountenanced and exploded by the followers of the bon ton.

No actor deserves the countenance of an audience more than Wroughton, for no man takes more true pains to deserve it. There was a touch of nature in his address to Lady Touchwood, when the ladies were carrying her away, in spite of his endeavours to the contrary, triumphantly to public places, which was not unworthy the most perfect actor :

Fanny! — Fanny! — You will not leave me, will you?

A manly

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A manly warmth, corrected by humanity, distinguished Aickin's manner of detecting and punishing of Courtall, who had formed a vile plot to dishonour lady Touchwood, which pleased, and will ever please, an English audience.

Mr. Lee Lewis and Mr. Quick, who acted Flutter and Old Hardy, are deservedly such great favourites in their different styles of acting, that I shall leave them to the enjoyment of that approbation which they are always sure to meet with.

C H A P.

CHAP. L.

The players unprotected, and persecuted----
Their characters more respectable than gene-
*rally supposed----**Their loyalty----**Neglect*
*of their own interest----**Distress of decayed*
*actors----**Mr. Hull's address to the players*
*----**The foundation of a theatrical fund----*
Which was first established at Covent-garden
---Mr. Garrick the great promoter of the
*fund at Drury-lane----**His earnestness to*
*support it---**Procures an act of parliament*
*for its security----**His donation to it by*
will, &c.

THE players, though the great instruments of rational amusement and moral instruction, of all the subjects of this free kingdom, have, by an unaccountable fatality, been least protected, and most persecuted. Those comedians who presume to act plays without a royal patent, are subject to the punishment incurred by the act against vagrants, which considers them to be in that predicament; or if that statute is not, or cannot, be put

put in force against them, they are obliged to pay a large fine every time they perform, agreeably to a clause in an act made in the eleventh year of the late king to limit the number of playhouses.

Even in the reigns of Elizabeth and James I. when, from the people's fondness for theatrical representation, there were no less than twenty playhouses open in the cities of London and Westminster, not only the fanatics of those times, but some four divines of the establish'd Church, published books against the players, in which they were represented as persons who practised a profession unlawful and profane, and contrary to the religion of the gospel. In justification of these censures, we find they made use of arms borrowed from the pope's magazine. The canons and decretals of these holy heads of the holy Roman Catholic Church have been ransacked and quoted against the poor players. When we examine the arguments adduced against these people, we find them either founded on misapplications of their originals, or entirely supported by ignorance, fanaticism, and folly.

I will

I will not presume to say, that the players are more exemplary in their lives, or more remarkable for their piety and devotion, than their neighbours; yet they will be found, on enquiry, to have less disturbed the peace of society than any body of men whatsoever. Look over the records of Newgate and the Old-Bailey, from the beginning of the last century to the present times, you will scarcely find the name of a comedian amongst the many unhappy wretches who have suffered condign punishment for breaking the laws of their country.

One honour the players can boast, which is entirely their own. The greatest writer of this, and perhaps of any other nation, was one of their profession; and notwithstanding the reflection which a critic and commentator has made in favour of Shakespeare, that one of the greatest misfortunes of his life, was his being obliged to keep the worst of company, meaning his fellows; it may, in their favour, be presumed, that their conversation was not very licentious, for the language of his plays is pure and chaste when compared

compared to the dialogue of Ben Jonson and Beaumont and Fletcher. There is such a wide difference between the modest scenes of the player writer, and the loose language of the two last mentioned gentlemen authors, one the son of a bishop, and the other of a judge, that one would scarce imagine that they had lived in the same age, or that their plays were acted before the same audiences.

The players too have ever merited a large claim to royal favour. In the breaking out of the civil wars in the reign of Charles I. they were firm friends to the royal cause. Robinson the actor was killed at the siege of Basingstoke by Harrison, who refused him quarter, and shot him in the head, when he had laid down his arms, with this quotation from scripture, *Cursed is he that doeth the work of the Lord negligently.* Mohun, who was a favourite actor of Charles II. was a captain; and after the civil wars were ended, he served in Flanders, where he received pay as a major. The famous Charles Hart was a lieutenant of horse in Prince Rupert's

Rupert's troop. Burt was a cornet in the same troop, and Shutterell quarter-master. Allen was a major and quarter-master at Oxford. Not one of the players of any note sided with the parliament, except Swanston, a presbyterian, who took up the trade of a jeweller; he was famous for acting Othello; the rest lost or exposed their lives for K. Charles. I will venture to assert, that there is not a man amongst the present actors of both houses, but is a staunch friend of government.

But indeed the players have, till very lately, been as neglectful of themselves and their interest, considered as a body of men, as the legislature itself. They were governed by no particular rules and orders, which cement a society for its own advantage or preservation. No laws were thought of by them, to secure them from injustice, oppression, or want. Like a ship at sea, without a chart or compass, they were driven about, just at the pleasure of the winds and waves. Their pilot was the manager, their rudder the audience.

Within

Within these thirty years there has been a talk of establishing a theatrical fund, for the support of such performers as should be obliged through age, infirmity, or accident, to retire from the stage. Various plans have been formed, some of them, perhaps, might have been reduced to practice, others were nugatory or visionary. Mr. Pritchard, an honest, good-natured man, the husband of the great actress, had laid out a scheme to relieve infirm players; but little hopes could be expected from a projector who proposed to build a ship which could move on the water without either sails or wind. Mr. John Arthur, the player, drew a plan of a large building, with a chapel in it, I suppose on the model of Dulwich College; but this was thought too expensive, and of too large a scale for the abilities of the subscribers. Mr. Rosamond of Hampton very generously, about the year 1757, offered a handsome sum of money for the support of decayed actors. The managers were at first jealous of this undertaking of the players, and imagined it would in

time produce an *imperium in imperio*, and prove the means of arrogance and presumption in them, and, perhaps, render them independent of their masters. However, some of those actors, who, through infirmity, or any other inability, were unemployed, by application to the managers of Drury-lane, occasionally obtained relief, either by presents, or shares in benefits. This charity was, however, but a partial and uncertain relief. At length, in 1765, the case of an eminent actress, whose salary had been very considerable, who was on a sudden, from no apparent cause, reduced to depend on the contributions of the players of both houses, which were indeed very ample, considering their abilities, alarmed the whole society. Mr. Thomas Hull, a judicious actor, and a man of a very respectable character, had the honour to be the first who conceived and brought to bear a rational project for the players fund. To promote this desirable end, he addressed the performers of Covent-garden theatre in a printed letter, in which, after establishing

establishing the necessity of some method of provision, he stated several reasonable propositions, as the foundation of his plan. The most material are the following :

That a subscription be immediately begun, at the free will of each approver of this method ; and that the monies arising from it be forthwith lodged in the public funds.

That an allowance of sixpence in the pound be granted from the weekly income of all such who chuse to be contributors to the institution.

That every person who contributes a guinea, or upwards, be desired to meet his brethren, to appoint a select committee of three, five, or more members, as shall seem fittest, for the farther advancement of this scheme.

That the said committee shall take the office of secretary in rotation, without fee or reward.

That the weekly contributions be left with the treasurer of the theatre, who will be desired to deliver them to the secre-

tary, in order to be conveyed to the funds, as fast as they amount to any sum capable of bearing interest: and farther, that such interest be from time to time withdrawn, and replaced, in order to its accumulation.

That, for five years to come, no levies be made on the fund; and none but the contributors, and their families, shall ever have claims upon it; foreign objects still to be left to their judgment and humanity; which last they will be better able to indulge, from the certainty of a resource, should their own circumstances ever require it.

This address produced an immediate good effect. The collection was set forward, under the joint efforts of Mr. Hull, and Mr. Mattocks, who was a very strenuous promoter of the scheme; and with this very judicious proviso, that no one person should give less than half a guinea, nor more than a guinea.

The contribution was begun in December 1765. In the course of a very few days, above 100*l.* were raised. The first meeting

meeting of the contributors was on the 22d of December, 1765, when the plan was established, which has since been gradually improving.

The scheme was most liberally assisted by the patronage of Mr. Beard and Mrs. Rich, then managers of Covent-garden theatre. The late Mr. William Gibson of Covent-garden was a large contributor; Mr. Cumberland and Mrs. Donaldson were likewise great benefactors. Mr. Beard has continued a trustee of the institution from its first origin to this time.

During the first six years, or thereabouts, the fund was augmented by the profits of annual benefits. Under Mr. Colman's management, the players were deprived of this advantage; he wished, it seems, to have the direction of the fund; this the committee did not think themselves warranted to grant. It is, in my opinion, rather an unhappiness that they did not, or could not, comply with his desire; for as Mr. Colman was certainly a person of sufficient security for all the money which could be deposited in his hands, and would have accounted with

them fairly and punctually for all disbursements, the refusing his request, he might think, proceeded from a want of that confidence they ought to have reposed in him; and this prevented them, in all probability, from receiving much emolument and increase to their fund. It is extremely unfortunate that Mr. Harris, who is celebrated by the players as a liberal, as well as polite man, should persist in refusing an annual benefit to the fund. It has been observed very justly, that many schemes of charity out of doors are benefited by the theatre; that which originated under its very roof is denied every assistance of that kind. Notwithstanding this material disadvantage, this institution has been enabled to grant much occasional relief, and to support several superannuated contributors in ease and comfort, without injuring their capital, or any apprehension of it.

The fund of Covent-garden theatre, in 1776, had the sanction of an act of parliament; and the subscribers to it are thereby declared a body corporate and politic.

The

The Covent-garden fund was first set on foot at a time when Mr. Garrick was on the continent. When he came home, he was exceedingly angry, and much mortified, that a business of such importance should be carried on without the least communication with him: he was, he said, universally acknowledged to be at the head of his profession, besides being a patentee and manager of the oldest company of the king's servants. The players apology for proceeding without his advice or knowledge, was urged partly from their immediate feeling on the account of Mrs. Hamilton, who had been reduced from very affluent circumstances to indigence, and excluded from the theatres when her powers of acting were as strong as they ever had been. The other part of their excuse was not quite so palatable; they urged the frequent and unsuccessful applications which they had made to the managers of Drury-lane theatre: that it was therefore become an act of necessity to make some provision for superannuated or disabled actors, and

rescue their profession from the disgrace of being unlike any other society or body of men in the nation.

Whether the reluctance of consenting to the long requested assistance of the managers of Drury-lane, proceeded from one, or both of them, is of no importance at present. That they both, in 1766, very heartily concurred to encourage a contribution, in order to establish a fund for the support of such performers whose age and infirmities should oblige them to retire from the stage, is very certain: they not only paid down a very considerable sum, as an earnest of farther favours, but promised an annual benefit night for the augmentation and support of the fund; and this promise was fulfilled by Mr. Garrick and Mr. Lacy during the life of the latter, and, since his death, was made good by his son and successor, Willoughby Lacy, Esq.

But Mr. Garrick had it in his power to do the most essential service to this benevolent institution by his talents in acting, which he vigorously exerted in favour of it,
by

by performing annually one of his capital parts. On these nights he spoke a prologue of his own writing, in which there was a happy mixture of humour and benevolence. He was, in consequence of these his periodical labours, the chief instrument of bringing the playhouse fund of Drury-lane to its maturity; and in this he proved himself the friend, father, and protector of the comedians.

On the 18th of May, 1774, at a meeting of the players in the Green-room of Drury-lane, Mr. Garrick produced, to the great satisfaction of the persons then present, an account of the monies arising from the several contributions, benefits, interest of money, &c. He likewise, at the same time, proposed to them, that a committee of thirteen persons should be chosen, and by the members empowered to form such rules and orders as should be thought most conducive to the lasting welfare of the said establishment. To this proposition they unanimously consented.

In

In January 1776, the committee of the Drury-lane fund, by the advice of Mr. Garrick, applied to parliament for their sanction and support; who, on such application, passed an act for the better securing this laudable charity. All the costs and charges attending the passing of this statute were discharged by Mr. Garrick; and, still farther to increase his bounty to the institution, he did, with the consent of Willoughby Lacy, Esq; bestow on it the monies received on the 10th of June, 1776, at the representation of *The Wonder, A Woman Keeps a Secret*; when, after acting the part of Don Felix, he took his final leave of the stage.

Mr. Garrick also gave to the proprietors of the fund a house situate in Drury-lane, for the conveniency of assembling to transact business: this house, some time before his death, the committee sold to him for a sum of 370*l*. By his will, he bequeathed the same back again to the fund. It is computed, that, by the product of his labours in acting annually capital parts, and by donations

donations of one kind or other, he gained for this beneficial institution a capital of near 4,500l.

If a man acquires a right to value himself upon any circumstance which renders him more respectable in the eyes of the world; how much more may whole societies be authorised to esteem themselves objects of respect, when, by a generous effort, they have overcome many difficulties, and rescued themselves from obloquy and disgrace! The establishment of the play-house fund reflects great and lasting honour upon the present race of actors.

Of these laudable institutions I have spoken copiously, and, I hope, exactly. May they live and flourish. I cannot conclude this chapter, without observing, that his present Majesty has done more, by granting of various royal patents,* to rescue the players from the persecution of ignorant and fanatical magistrates, than all his predecessors.

* Patents of Edinburgh, York, Hull, Norwich, Liverpool, &c.

CHAP. LI.

Improvements in the entrance to Drury-lane theatre, and ornaments over it----Mr. Garrick resolves to part with his share of the patent----Various reasons assigned for it---Acts several of his principal characters---Takes his final leave of the stage---His address to the audience.

BEFORE the opening of Drury-lane theatre in the winter of 1776, many convenient passages, and several enlargements of entrance, were made, to facilitate the audience in going into the several parts of the house, especially into the front and side boxes, from Bridges-street. To this end, some part of the Rose Tavern was taken in, and joined to the theatre. Some decorations were made over the grand entrance in the same street. The King's arms in the middle, large and striking figures of a lion rampant and an unicorn, fronting each other, at the two extremities of the building; at the top
of

of all, and in the middle of it, a suit of ancient armour, resembling the trophies raised by a conqueror on slaying the leader of an army; such as we see described in the beginning of the 11th book of Virgil's *Æneis*. Many remarks were made on the impropriety of these ornaments, which I shall leave to the critics.

These alterations in the inside and front of the theatre were followed by reports of Mr. Garrick's resolution to part with his share of the patent. Many reasons were publicly assigned for it: some gave out, with probability, that his health was so much impaired by constant illness, that it would not be in his power either to act or manage longer with any ease to himself: others would have it, that the ungovernable and refractory tempers of some ladies of the theatre had reduced him to the necessity of quitting a sceptre which he could no longer hold with any kind of dignity, since his subjects began to thwart his dictates, and would no longer submit to his directions.

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Two epigrams were published, which were written in favour of this supposition. The first was intituled,

Orpheus and Garrick.

Three thousand brims kill'd Orpheus in a rage ;
Three actresses drove Garrick from the stage.

The second was inscribed,

The Manager's Distress.

I have no nerves, says Y——g ; I cannot act.
I've lost my limbs, cries A——n ; 'tis fact.
Y——s screams, I've lost my voice, my throat's
so fore.

Garrick declares he'll play the fool no more.
Without nerves, limbs, and voice, no shew, that's
certain :

Here, prompter, ring the bell, and drop the curtain.

Though the disputes which must unavoidably fall out amongst persons whose tempers are accidentally heated, and whose interests clash in the confined circle of a play-house, where jealousy and distrust predominate,
from

from very obvious reasons*, gained some credit to the report of Mr. Garrick's leaving the stage, from the frequent opposition to his will by the most eminent of the female players; yet I am fully persuaded, that such ridiculous squabbles, if they really did happen, however they might for the time ruffle his temper, did not absolutely influence his conduct in a point so material to his interest. From his being advanced to what Shakespeare calls his chair days, in the 60th year of his age, and the frequent relapses into painful fits of the stone and gravel, which, on their departure, always left sad and visible marks of their tyranny, we may venture to assert, he was induced to think of a retreat, and to ascertain his property in the best manner possible, in order to secure it, in case of his death, for the beloved partner of his life, and his other relations.

When it was once known that Mr. Garrick was in earnest to part with his moiety

* The disputes of players are generally owing to their peculiar situation. They cannot, like those of other professions, dispose of their talents in several markets, and to various purchasers.

of the patent, several bidders offered themselves immediately. Not to dwell long on a transaction so publicly known, in the beginning of January, 1776, he entered into articles with Richard Brinsley Sheridan, Thomas Linley, and Richard Ford, Esqrs. for the sale of his moiety, on paying the sum of thirty-five thousand pounds.*

Another motive for leaving the stage at this time, was, doubtless, his resolution not to stay on till his powers of acting were weakened by age or infirmity. He was determined, before he left the theatre, to give the public proofs of his abilities to delight them as highly as he had ever done in the flower and vigour of his life. To this end, about a fortnight or three weeks previous to his taking his final leave, he presented them with some of the most capital and trying characters of Shakespeare; with Hamlet, Richard and Lear; besides other parts which were less fatiguing. Hamlet and Lear were repeated; Richard he acted once only, and by the king's com-

* This contract was perfected June 24, 1776.

mand.

mand. His Majesty was much surprised to see him, in an age so advanced, run about the field of battle with so much fire, force, and agility.

He finished his dramatic race with one of his favourite parts, with Felix, in the Wonder, A Woman Keeps a Secret. When the play was ended, Mr. Garrick advanced towards the audience with much palpitation of mind, and visible emotion in his countenance. No premeditation whatever could prepare him for this affecting scene. He bowed---he paused---the spectators were all attention.--- After a short struggle of nature, he recovered from the shock he had felt, and addressed his auditors in the following words :

“ Ladies and Gentlemen,

“ It has been customary with persons under my circumstances to address you in a farewell epilogue. I had the same intention, and turned my thoughts that way ; but indeed I found myself *then* as incapable of writing such an epilogue, as I should be *now* of speaking it.

“ The jingle of rhyme, and the language
“ of fiction, would but ill suit my present
“ feelings. This is to me a very awful
“ moment ; it is no less than parting for
“ ever with those from whom I have re-
“ ceived the greatest kindness and favours,
“ and upon the spot where that kindness
“ and those favours were enjoyed.” [Here
he was unable to proceed till he was relieved
by a shower of tears.]

“ Whatever may be the changes of my
“ future life, the deepest impression of your
“ kindness will always remain here, [putting
“ his hand on his breast] fixed and unal-
“ terable.

“ I will very readily agree to my succeß-
“ fors having more skill and ability for their
“ station than I have ; but I defy them all
“ to take more sincere, and more uninter-
“ rupted pains for your favour, or to be
“ more truly sensible of it, than is your
“ humble servant.”

After a profound obeifance, he retired,
amidst the tears and acclamations of a most
crowded and brilliant audience.

CHAP.

C H A P. LII.

Mr. Garrick retired from the theatre---- Attentive to what passes on Drury-lane stage--- His advice followed--- Attends the rehearsal of Miss More's tragedy of Percy---- Writes the prologue and epilogue to it--- Offends Mademoiselle D'Eon---- Reasons for his not being intimate with that person----- The Fatal Falshood--- Miss Young----- Unexpected honours paid to Mr. Garrick in the House of Commons--- Instructs a young actor in a very difficult part--- Is taken ill at a nobleman's seat--- Returns to town, seemingly recovered--- Relapses--- Attended by several physicians--- His calm resignation--- Dies--- Magnificently buried.

THOUGH Mr. Garrick had taken his leave of the stage, it was no easy matter for him to throw off all thoughts of it; he had still a great stake depending, which it was his interest to support. The new patentee and ostensible manager esteemed and loved him; he knew the value of his

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advice, and implicitly relied upon his experience and discernment.

Mr. Garrick, besides other motives to serve the patentee, Mr. Sheridan, was pleased with his reliance on his kindness, and his confidence in his judgment. He very freely communicated his opinion to the manager upon every subject on which he was consulted. I have no doubt but that Mr. Sheridan, by his advice, made some judicious alterations in Congreve's *Old Batchelor*, *Love for Love*, and the *Way of the World*. By retrenching some licentious expressions, and connecting, by some slight additions, character and sentiment, he has saved those excellent plays from oblivion, which the extreme delicacy of a refined age, whose ears are become exceedingly chaste, could not endure. Would any body believe that the song of a soldier and sailor was too gross for the squeamish stomachs of a whist-club? *The Relapse*, which was certainly too gross for any civilized audience, has been altered by the same hand to the *Trip to Scarborough*, and is now a very pleasing comedy.

Love

Love for Love was revived with the full force of the company; and my old acquaintance Dick Yates, when turned of sixty, played Ben the Sailor with all the vigour, humour and spirit, of a man of thirty. King's Tattle was as entertaining as a shallow debauchee could be made by a good actor. Moody's figure, voice, and manner, were well fitted to Sir Sampson Legend, the hard-hearted father, and ill-natured wit. I would recommend to this player a little more of the gentleman in acting this sarcastic knight. Parsons was born a comic actor; the tones of his voice and the muscles of his face proclaim it; his humour is genuine and pleasant; nobody can forbear laughing, either *with* him, or *at* him, whenever he opens his mouth. If he would be more simple and chaste in drawing Old Foresight's character, and not imitate the action of a sailor pulling up his trowsers so often, he would not, perhaps, gain so much loud applause, but he would find more judicious approvers.

From an actress celebrated for characters of high life, and eminent for graceful de-

portment and elegant action, you would not expect the aukward and petulant behaviour of a girl just come from a farmhouse: Mrs. Abington, unconfined in her talents, rendered Miss Prue as naturally rude and diverting, as if she had been mistress of no other style in acting than rustic simplicity.

The tragedy of Percy, written by Miss Hannah More, had been read and approved by Mr. Garrick, and was, I believe, recommended by him to Mr. Harris, who very liberally bestowed expences on the dresses, and other decorations of the tragedy. The parts were appropriated to the powers of the company. From many affecting scenes in this play, it was impossible not to prognosticate to our stage a rising genius in tragedy, who would in time produce scenes not inferior to the best of Otway and Southern, without that mixture of coarseness and vulgarity which disgrace the productions of these excellent writers. There is an interview between Elwina and Percy, in the fourth act, which is not much inferior

inferior to the celebrated parting scene between Castalio and Monimia, in the last act of the Orphan.

Mr. Garrick wrote the prologue and epilogue to Percy.

The following lines, apparently applicable to Mademoiselle D'Eon, gave great offence, we are informed, to that lady, and her friends :

To rule the man, our sex dame Nature teaches ;
Mount the high horse we can, and make long speeches. }
Nay, and with dignity, some wear the breeches.
And why not wear them ? —

* * * * *

Did not a lady knight, late chevalier,
A brave smart soldier in your eyes appear ?
Hey ! presto ! pass ! His sword becomes a fan,
A comely woman rising from a man.
The French their Amazonian maid invite ; }
She goes—alike well skill'd to talk or write,
Dance, ride, negotiate, scold, coquet, or fight.
If she should set her heart upon a rover,
And he prove false, she'd kick her faithless lover.

These harmless verses were, it seems, greatly resented by this phœnomenon in petticoats. The truth is, Mr. Garrick had studiously avoided any acquaintance with D'Eon, who had often wished to be introduced to him; but his intimacy with the enemies of this person, some of the heads of the French ministry, especially Mr. De St. Foix and Mr. Neckar, prevented a correspondence with her. However, D'Eon was once invited to Hampton. Mr. Garrick had, above most men, the lively art of entertaining: to amuse his guest, he drew two humorous pictures of a Frenchman and an Englishman, and painted their different manners of feeling in a similar situation. This, it seems, displeased D'Eon; for Mr. Garrick was too good an Englishman, to give the advantage on the Frenchman's side.*

It is pretended now, that this lady is a natural daughter of Lewis XV. and for

* When he was at Paris, he would not be introduced to Abbe Le Blanc, who had written, as he thought, disrespectfully of Shakespeare.

that reason, is treated by the court of France with great tenderness and delicacy. The letter of invitation to return to France, lately printed, and written by a great French minister, is couched in the most respectful terms. The king insists upon her wearing the proper habit of her sex; the lady has a violent passion for the military dress, and does not wish to change it; and in this she is supported by the gentlemen of the army, who insist upon it, that no person who has ranked as an officer, should ever wear a gown and petticoat. She has, it is reported, been kept above twelve months in a kind of honourable confinement, with an intent to oblige her to conform to the king's will.

The Fatal Falshood of Miss More, which Mr. Garrick had seen in MS. and greatly approved, was acted at an improper time of the year, in April 1769, at the theatre of Covent-garden, but with the best approbation that can possibly be given to a tragedy, the heart-felt sorrow and gushing tears of the audience.

The power of passion over a mind naturally generous and sincere, but induced by
love's

love's irresistible force to deviate from all those ties which should bind the human heart, was never more strongly painted than in the Fatal Falshood. Such scenes of conflicting passions, where honour, gratitude, friendship, and reason, prevail for a time, and at last are laid prostrate at the feet of the universal tyrant; are scarcely to be equalled in any of our modern plays. Orlando is indeed love's martyr.

Though a critical examination of this excellent tragedy could not but be an agreeable task, it would lead me beyond the limits of my plan; however, I hope I shall be excused the endeavouring to do justice to the inimitable action of Miss Young. I had felt her power of moving the passions in the Matilda of Dr. Franklyn, a tragedy acted a few years since with great and merited applause: in Emmelina, she surpassed every actress I had ever seen, in the representation of deep sorrow and unutterable anguish.

There is no situation of the stage so difficult, as that in which the player is obliged to supply what no words can express; when
look

look and action must convey to the audience the supreme distress of an agonizing heart.

The dumb despair of Miss Young was, in the expression of countenance, superior to all the powers of eloquence; and produced such an effect on the audience, as I do not remember ever to have seen. Her look to Guilford, her father, when she pronounced these simple words,

“Methinks your daughter should not have been refused.”——

throb'd every heart, and drew tears from every eye.

Mr. Garrick frequently, when disengaged from business, attended the debates of the House of Commons, especially on such important questions as he knew would bring up all the best speakers of both parties.

In the spring of 1777, he happened to be present in the gallery. During a certain motion, which produced an altercation between a right honourable member and another honourable gentleman, which proceeded to
that

that degree of warmth, that the Speaker and the House were obliged to interpose, to prevent some apprehended bad consequences ; a Shropshire member happened to observe that Mr. Garrick was sitting in the gallery, and immediately moved to clear the house.

Mr. Burke rose, and appealed to the honourable Assembly, whether it could possibly be consistent with the rules of decency and liberality, to exclude from the hearing of their debates a man to whom they were all obliged ; one who was the great master of eloquence ; in whose school they had all imbibed the art of speaking, and been taught the elements of rhetoric. For his part, he owned that he had been greatly indebted to his instructions. Much more he said in commendation of Mr. Garrick, and was warmly seconded by Mr. Fox and Mr. T. Townshend, who very copiously displayed the great merit of their old preceptor, as they termed him ; they reprobated the motion of the gentleman with great warmth and indignation.

The

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The House almost unanimously concurred in exempting Mr. Garrick from the general order of quitting the gallery. He wrote a little poem on the occasion, which has never been printed, and will, I hope, prove an agreeable entertainment to my readers.

Squire *B——n rose with deep intent,
And notify'd to parliament,
That I, it was a shame and sin,
When others were shut out, got in;
Asserting in his wise oration,
I gloried in my situation.
I own my features might betray
Peculiar joy I felt that day;
I glory when my mind is feasted
With dainties it has seldom tasted;
When reason chuses Fox's tongue
To be more rapid, clear, and strong;

* This gentleman's political creed is, that all government whatsoever is to be supported; a passive obedience doctrine very pleasing to every minister, and every prince. With Mr. B——n Nero has as great a title to allegiance as Titus Vespasian.

When

When from his classic urn Burke pours
 A copious stream through banks of flow'rs ;
 When Barré stern, with accents deep,
 Calls up Lord North, and murders sleep ;
 And if his Lordship rise to speak,
 Then wit and argument awake :
 When Rigby speaks, and all may hear him,
 Who can withstand, *ridendo verum* ?
 When Thurloe's words attention bind,
 The spell's of a superior mind.
 Now, whether I were Whig or Tory,
 This was a time for me to glory ;
 My glory farther still extends,
 For most of these I call my friends :
 But if, Squire B——n, you were hurt
 To see me, as you thought, so pert,
 You might have punish'd my transgression,
 And damp'd the ardour of expression.
 A brute there is, whose voice confounds,
 And frights all other with strange sounds ;
 Had you, your matchless pow'rs displaying,
 Like him, Squire B——n, set a braying,
 I should have lost all exultation,
 Nor gloried in my situation.

Mr.

Mr. Garrick was, upon all occasions, after he had quitted the stage, willing to give his advice and instruction to any actor who thought it his interest to consult him. In the winter of 1778, the managers of Drury-lane, by his advice, revived the tragedy of Mahomet, translated by Miller from Voltaire, and one of the most admired pieces of that writer. The part of Zaphne had originally been represented by Mr. Garrick himself, with very great applause; why he never afterwards resumed it, I could not learn; but he endeavoured, about ten or twelve years since, to give Catherly an idea of it. But altho' that young actor was exceedingly attentive to his master's instructions, and laboured very indefatigably to do justice to them in action, his natural requisites for tragedy were weak, and his chief merit consisted in having a very good ear. Mr. Garrick had an affection for him, and often pushed his abilities beyond their reach. His Zaphne was a very faint copy of the author's design, and his tutor's lesson.

Young

Young Mr. Bannister, after giving some indications of agreeable talents in the dramatic line, was thought by Mr. Garrick not unequal to the task of giving the public a representation of Zaphne. He instructed him in this part for several weeks very assiduously; and finding the young actor's abilities answer his expectations, he encouraged him to make an experiment of his tragic talents in this trying part.

Bannister had the advantage of acting Zaphne with Mrs. Robinson's Palmyra, a young, beautiful, and pleasing actress.

The scenes of Zaphne are as interesting to the audience as they are difficult to the powers of an actor; an unexperienced youth, naturally generous and good, is wrought upon by gloomy superstitious delusion, and the fanatic enthusiasm of visionary zeal, to act contrary to all the known dictates of reason, truth, and humanity; the knowledge of what is evidently right clashing with what this disciple of Mahomet is taught to believe an indispensable act of religion, produces such a conflict of contending

tending passions, such a struggle between nature and art, reason and zeal, as nothing but the skill of a Garrick could properly discern, and strongly represent. However, it must be owned, that this young adventurer gave the public, in Zaphne a fair promise of arriving, in time, to a great degree of merit; his voice was not as yet rightly formed, and, consequently, unable always to give force to the violent passions of an enthusiast; he conceived justly, and with accuracy, and sometimes executed boldly and vigorously. By the death of Mr. Garrick, this young man lost a good friend, and an excellent instructor. Mahomet was played by Palmer, who, I think, excells more in comedy than in tragedy: he is a very good general actor; if he never rises to a superior degree of excellence, neither does he ever sink to flatness and insipidity. No actor is more seen by an audience in a great variety of parts, nor, in general, more approved, than Mr. Palmer.

The genius of Voltaire saw what excellent effect the workings of nature between a

father and his children, unknown to one another, would produce on the feelings of an audience. The situations of Zaphne, Palmyra, and Alcanor, are as truly affecting as any I know in dramatic poetry. It is with pleasure I pay the just tribute of praise to a worthy man, and a judicious actor. Mr. Bensly was extremely pathetic through the whole of that admirably drawn character of Alcanor.

In Christmas 1778, Mr. and Mrs. Garrick were invited to the country seat of Earl Spencer, where they had frequently been welcome guests. In the midst of that social happiness and rational pleasure which every body enjoys with that noble family, Mr. Garrick was seized with a terrible fit of his old disorder. His having the herpes, or what is commonly called the shingles, at the same time, which perfectly covered his loins, alarmed Mrs. Garrick greatly, tho' the physicians said it was a matter of no importance. He was so well recovered of his disorder, the gravel and stone, that he determined to set out for London. He arrived at his house in the Adelphi on Friday
the

the fifteenth of January, 1779. The next day he sent for his apothecary, Mr. Lawrence, who found him dressing himself, and seemingly in good health, but somewhat alarmed that he had not, for many hours, discharged any urine, when his constant practice had been, for some years, to make water every four hours. Mr. Lawrence observed to him, that this was no sufficient cause to make him uneasy; but when, on the next day, he found the same symptom continue, he judged it proper to acquaint Dr. Cadogan with it. The doctor conceived it to be of so serious a nature, that he told Mr. Garrick, his disorder was so uncertain in its progress, that it was necessary to inform him, if he had any worldly affairs to settle, it would be prudent to dispatch them as soon as possible. Mr. Garrick assured him, that nothing of that sort lay on his mind; and that he was not afraid to die.

The distemper was incessantly gaining ground; the fluids not passing in their natural course, brought on a kind of stupor,

which increased gradually to the time of his death.

About two days before he died, he was visited by a very old acquaintance, a man whose company and conversation every body covets, because his humour is harmless, and his pleasantry diverting. He was introduced to Mrs. Garrick, who was indisposed, from the fatigue she underwent in her long and constant attendance upon her husband; a duty which she never omitted during any illness of his life. She persuaded this friend to stay and dine with her, expecting from him some little alleviation of her uneasiness from sympathy, and some ease of condolence from his company in her present situation. While they were talking, Mr. Garrick came into the room; but oh! how changed! from that vivacity and sprightliness which used to accompany every thing he said, and every thing he did! His countenance was fallow and wan, his movement slow and solemn. He was wrapped in a rich nightgown, like that which he always wore in Lufignan,

Lusignan, the venerable old king of Jerusalem; he presented himself to the imagination of his friend as if he was just ready to act that character. He sat down; and during the space of an hour, the time he remained in the room, he did not utter a word. He rose, and withdrew to his chamber. Mrs. Garrick and the gentleman dined; but Mr. Garrick was rather a little displeased that he was not sent for to be present at their meal.

Dr. Heberden and Dr. Warren were now called in. Several other physicians, many of whom were his intimate acquaintance, attended, without any desire of reward, and solely from an eager inclination to give him relief, and to prolong a life so much valued by the public, and so dear to his friends. When Dr. Schomberg approached Mr. Garrick, he, with a placid smile on his countenance, took him by the hand, and said, "Though last, not least in love."

The stupor was not so powerful as to hinder him from conversing occasionally with a philosophical cheerfulness. He told Mr. Lawrence, that he did not regret his

being childless; for he knew the quickness of his feelings was so great, that, in case it had been his misfortune to have had disobedient children, he could not have supported such an affliction.

On the day before his death, seeing a number of gentlemen in his apartment, he asked Mr. Lawrence who they were; he was told they were all physicians, who came with an intention to be of service to him. He shook his head, and repeated the following lines of Horatio in the Fair Penitent:

Another, and another, still succeeds;

And the last fool is welcome as the former.

During the remainder of his time, he continued easy and composed, and conversed with great tranquillity. He had so little apprehension of death being so near, that, I am well informed, he said to the servant who gave him a draught, a day or two before his death, "Well, Tom, I shall do very well yet, and make you amends for all this trouble."

He

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He died on Wednesday morning, January the 20th, 1779, at eight o'clock, without a groan. Mr. Garrick's disease was pronounced by Mr. Potts to be a palsy in the kidneys.

On Monday, February 1, the body of Mr. Garrick was conveyed from his own house in the Adelphi, and most magnificently interred in Westminster-Abbey, under the monument of his beloved Shakespeare. He was attended to the grave by persons of the first rank; by men illustrious for genius, and famous for science; by those who loved him living, and lamented his death.

Twenty-four of the principal actors of both theatres, who composed the two committees of the playhouse funds, were also attendants at the funeral; and, with unfeigned sorrow, regretted the loss of so great an ornament to their profession, and so munificent a benefactor to their charitable institution.*

* For the order of Mr. Garrick's funeral, see the Appendix.

1779
1778
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C H A P. LIII.

*View of Mr. Garrick's general character---
 Cannot be compared with Burbage, Allen,
 Hart, Mobun, &c.----Superior to Wilkes,
 Booth, and Cibber---More honoured than
 any English or foreign actors---Moliere and
 Baron---Anecdotes of them---Mr. Garrick
 compared with Roscius---His pre-eminence--
 Honours paid to Mr. Garrick not confined to
 his native country---Mr. Neckar, Mr. De St.
 Foix, and the duke of Nivernois---Mr. Gar-
 rick's learning---Improvements from his con-
 stant visitors---His conversation---Contrasted
 with that of Foote---The services which he
 did to others---Mr. Beighton's character---
 Mr. Garrick considered as an author---His
 faults---Splendid manner of living---His
 humanity, benevolence, and charity.*

SO much has been said, in the preceding chapters, of Mr. Garrick, as an actor and a man, that it may seem unnecessary to make any farther addition. And yet,
 some

some general view of so extraordinary a person, in which he must be considered both as a man figuring in the world, and in his domestic situation, will, in all probability, be expected. His public actions are indeed so blended with his private, that it will be no easy task to separate them. Of his superior skill in acting I have spoken so largely, that little or nothing on that head must be given here, especially as I shall have an opportunity, in another place, to compare his theatrical powers with those of other actors, his contemporaries.*

Without any inclination to make invidious comparison, or with a view to lessen the reputation of any man that is now, or ever has been, on the stage, it can with truth be averred of Mr. Garrick, that he was viewed by the world in general in a different light from all actors of this, or any other nation, antient or modern.

I do not now speak of his particular eminence as a player, but of his great importance as a member of society; of his general worth, not of his singular talents.

* Dramatic Miscellanies.

Amongst the comedians of this country, whom shall I select to compare with Garrick? Pope forbids me to go back to the days of Shakespeare; the condition of the players was then so mean, it seems, that they were conducted by the butler into the buttery;* and, as he says, and, I believe, with some regret, not placed at a lord's table, or a lady's toilette. And yet this author might have known, that James the First granted his royal licence to William Shakespeare, Richard Burbage, John Hemmings, Henry Condell, &c. whom he styles his servants, and calls upon all magistrates to assist them in the due performing of their plays and interludes; a favour, I presume, not granted to mean fellows of Mr. Pope's description. Nor did this great writer's malignity to the players allow him to reflect, that Edward Allen, the munificent founder of Dulwich College, was a player, and the sole proprietor of his own theatre, which he built from the ground; and that this man could not be worth less than 25,000*l.* a sum then

* Pope's Preface to Shakespeare.

equal to 100,000*l.* in our days,* and not inferior, upon that account, to Mr. Garrick's fortune.

But however valuable the players, in the days of Elizabeth and James the First, might be, I shall not search amongst them for a rival to Mr. Garrick. Their successors, in the reigns of Charles and James the Second, gained no advantage of estimation from their acting the licentious plays of Dryden, Otway, Lee, Wycherly, Behn, and Shadwell; and tho' Hart and Mohun, who had, by their loyalty in fighting bravely for their prince, and by wearing the honourable title of soldier, thrown a lustre upon their names, yet, I believe, we must not put them on a level with Mr. Garrick; nor can I compare with the splendour of his fame the fortunes and reputation of Betterton, that worthy man, and most excellent actor.

* Burbage, the great actor of Shakespeare's great characters, we are told, was so eminent in his profession, that no country gentleman thought himself qualified for conversation without having an acquaintance with Dick Burbage.

The extreme licentiousness of many plays, and the endless riots occasioned by certain ladies wearing vizor masks, kept from the theatre a great number of sober and grave people, who deemed it a kind of contamination to frequent a place so irregular, debauched, and tumultuous.

The Rev. Mr. Collier's short View of the Stage produced a remarkable, and almost instantaneous alteration in the language of the theatre; and the act of the 5th of queen Anne, by which the wearing of vizor masks in the playhouse was prohibited, was an excellent supplement to the censures of the reverend divine. The papers in the Tatler and Spectator contributed more, perhaps, than any thing else, to reform the taste, and mend the morals of the age and of the theatre. Addison and Steele undertook the patronage of plays and players.

From this time we may date, not only an amendment of public morals, so far at least as regards decency of behaviour and refinement of language, but with the reformation of the poetical tribe, and their
literary

literary offspring, we must include a more regular and guarded conduct in their friends the actors. The royal patent granted to Dogget, Wilkes, and Cibber, and another afterwards given to Booth, Wilkes, and Cibber, in conjunction with Sir Richard Steele, raised the consequence of the players much higher than it had ever been; and amongst these acting patentees I must endeavour to find a rival to Mr. Garrick.

Wilkes was a regular, affable, and well-bred man, of plain good understanding, but without any tincture of learning. His whole ambition was to excel in his profession. He sometimes went to court, but was entirely unacquainted with the great. He was justly admired as an actor, and loved as an honest man; but had no mark to discriminate him from any other private gentleman.

Booth had great advantages from birth and education: he was a relation of the earl of Warrington, and not far remote from the title. He was a scholar, and a man of poetical fancy, as his compositions
in

in verse, which are far from mean, will sufficiently testify.

His professional merit recommended him to lord Bolingbroke, who was so pleased with his company and conversation, that he sent his chariot to the door of the theatre every night, to convey Booth, after the play was finished, to his country seat. It was said of Booth, that though he had then no chariot of his own, he commanded the carriages of all the nobility. The friendship of lord Bolingbroke gained Booth a share in the patent of Drury-lane theatre. From that time, which was soon after the death of Betterton, he was considered as the first tragedian of the age. He grew rich, and purchased an *estate and country house at Cowley, near Uxbridge.

Thus exalted to the highest eminence of fame, accompanied with the accession of wealth, it might be imagined that no succeeding actor could easily rise to a height so eminent, and so envied. But Booth,

* Afterwards bought by John Rich, Esq.

who

who had never before made any great figure in the world, after his marriage with Miss Santlow, on whom he greatly doated, cultivated few or no friendships, resorted to no public places, except Button's and the Bedford coffee-houses. No neighbouring gentlemen around his seat at Cowley, at least very few of them, disturbed him with visits or invitations. Known only to a few, he could be valued only by a few. He soon became indolent, was a loiterer at home, and solely wrapt up in the contemplation of his wife's accomplishments.

There was in his look an apparent goodness of mind, which struck every body that saw him. I have heard Mr. Delane, the actor, say, that when he entered the Bedford coffee-house, at a time when it was frequented by men of fashion, that he attracted the eyes of every body, by the benevolence of his aspect, the grandeur of his step, and the dignity of his demeanour. To sum up his character, he was an actor of genius, and an amiable man.

Colley Cibber, the other patentee, to the reputation of an approved and successful actor,

actor, added the higher character of a distinguished dramatic writer. His merit in both capacities introduced him to persons in high life, and made him free of all gay companies. In his youth he was a man of great levity, and the constant companion of our young noblemen and men of fashion in their hours of dissipation; Cibber diverted them with his sallies of humour and odd vivacities. He had the good fortune, in advanced life, to solace the cares of a great statesman in his relaxations from business: Mr. Pelham loved a *tete a tete* with Colley Cibber; and, I think, the latter tells us so in the dedication of his excellent *Apology* to that wise and honest minister. But an habitual love of play, and a rivetted attachment to pleasure, rendered him not so agreeable to persons of a grave turn of mind; much less could he be an eligible companion to the most dignified of the clergy, and to the heads of the law, who courted the company of Mr. Garrick, and with whom he lived, not on terms of permission and sufferance, but with freedom and familiarity.

But

But Colley, we are told, had the honour to be a member of the great club at White's; and so, I suppose, might any man, not quite unknown, who wore good cloaths, and paid his money when he lost it. But on what terms did Cibber live with this society? Why, he feasted most sumptuously, as I have heard his friend Victor say with an air of triumphant exultation, with Mr. Arthur and his wife, and gave eighteen pence for his dinner. After he had dined, when the club-room door was opened, and the laureat was introduced, he was saluted with the loud and joyous acclamation of "O king Coll! Come in, king Coll! Welcome, welcome, king Colley!" And this kind of gratulation, Mr. Victor thought, was very gracious, and very honourable.

I do not regard the vile aspersions of that four old critic, John Dennis, who, in a letter to Sir John Edgar, (meaning Sir Richard Steele) styles Cibber an abandoned profligate. I have heard, from better authority than Dennis, that he was a man of great good nature and humanity. It is sufficient to say, that, to the very dregs of old age, he was addicted to pleasure.

From what has been said, the reader will be convinced, that although, as an author, Cibber stands on higher ground than Mr. Garrick, in other respects, he is greatly his inferior.

If we turn our eyes to gay France, or harmonious Italy, we shall not, in those enlightened countries, I believe, meet with a theatrical competitor to Mr. Garrick. We must not look for accomplished actors amongst the Italian *improvvisatori*, or the representers of the *burletta*; nor shall I disgrace Mr. Garrick so far, as to compare him to the heroes of the opera stage, whose merit consists in modulation of voice, and whose dignity results from their accumulation of riches.

The French are generous patrons of the drama, and pay not only attention, but respect, to players of superior rank. Moliere was esteemed an excellent actor in comedy, and was, at the same time, a great author: he was indeed, as Boileau and Racine told Louis XIV. the glory and boast of his reign: all Europe could not then produce any dramatic

matic writer equal to him; and, I believe, our best critics are agreed, that he is second to Shakespeare alone; but as a player, and a man of eminence, followed, courted and carested by the greatest and the gravest men of a nation, he falls infinitely short of a Garrick. Louis knew Moliere's worth, and rewarded his merit, though not so amply as a prince ought to have done who pensioned the learned over all Europe. He conversed often with him, and even sometimes gave him a hint for a character.* The great prince of Condé admired Moliere, and many of the noblesse were his patrons; but he was by no means their companion, or admitted to an equality of conversation and friendship, as Garrick was with a duke of Devonshire, an earl of Chatham,

* Particularly in the Facheux. After the first representation of this piece, Louis told Moliere, (pointing to the Comte de Soye Court, a remarkable hunter) "There's another character of an impertinent." Moliere exhibited him the very next time the play was acted; and had the address to obtain the terms of the chace, of which he was ignorant, from the Count himself.

and George lord Littleton. No first president of the parliament of Paris ever paid a visit to Moliere; much less would he take a bed at his house, as a lord chancellor and a lord chief justice of England have with Garrick; they were not only his guests, but his occasional lodgers.

In vain did Louis endeavour to place the humane and generous Moliere, for such he was, above the prejudices which arose from his occupation of actor. To honour him as highly as his condition would permit, he appointed him one of the gentlemen of his bed-chamber. But this post, which was designed to place him above reproach, exposed him only to a very gross affront; for when, according to the custom of France, he went to assist at the making up the king's bed, his partner refused to join in office with him, on account of his being a player. It is true, the king repented the gentleman's insolence, but that could not wipe away Moliere's disgrace.

The

The bigotted arch prelate of Paris would have excommunicated Moliere, not have honoured him with a visit. Both our archbishops have frequently thought themselves happy in being entertained at the Adelphi, or Hampton, by Mr. and Mrs. Garrick.

But Michael Baron was the great actor of France, and some respect will be due to the brother Roscius of Mr. Garrick. All the historians of the French stage speak of Baron as a prodigy of the theatre. The richest and noblest epithets in their language are selected by them to express the beauties of his action and elocution; he was caressed, and almost idolized, by all France. Our own Roscius had a competent share of vanity, as most great artists have; but Baron's idolatry of his superior consequence exceeded all limits of credibility. It was a saying with this man, that nature, once every hundred years, produced a Cæsar, but she took two thousand to form a Baron. The strongest and most convincing proof of his merit was the prodigious applause which the people of Paris gave him when

he returned to the stage* in the 68th year of his age, after leaving it for near thirty years. He continued to charm all France to his 77th year, when he was suddenly taken ill upon the stage, in a very favourite part: he died about two months after.

Baron was the great favourite of the young nobility of France, and conversed with them freely and familiarly. His manner of living was splendid; he kept his coach, and played high. He had amassed great riches by his acting, besides enjoying a great pension bestowed on him by the king, and presents from the princes of the blood. But however exalted Baron was by himself and others, his companions of the nobility made him sometimes feel

* Baron aspired to the honour which his master, Moliere, had enjoyed, of being one of the gentlemen of the bedchamber to the king, or some other post about his person: the pride of Louis would not suffer him to bestow that on the accomplishments of a player which he had given to the greatest comic writer of France. Upon this refusal, Baron left the stage in disgust.

the inferiority of his situation. He once offered to bett a large sum of money with a nobleman of high rank. This was bold and unexpected : the prince, looking at him with some surprize, said, " Have at you, Monsieur Britannicus!" a part Baron acted in one of Racine's plays. He was very intimate with the Marquis de Biron, and often his companion in his parties of pleasure. The marquis's servants one day fell out with the coachman and valet of Baron, and beat them. Baron complained to the marquis of this affront : " My lord," said he, " *your* people have ill-treated *my* " people." The familiarity of the address, and the supposed equality which was presumed to be inferred in the words *your people and my people*, offended the nobleman; and when Baron repeated the charge, he turned to him with this severe reproof, " My good dear Baron, what would you " be at? Pray, tell me how you came " to have any people at all." Mr. Garrick's manner of living with our nobility was of a different kind from Baron's; it was with

dignity and ease: unassuming in his manner, he was always courted to use that freedom and familiarity which his moderation and good sense declined.

Bruyere, after observing that acting, among the Greeks, was not dishonourable, though held in a degree of infamy amongst the Romans, makes this observation: "We (says he) "think of the players as the Romans did, but we behave to them after "the manner of the Greeks." What I have related of Moliere and Baron does not, I imagine, establish this reflection of Bruyere.

It is true, that the Greeks did not think acting a disqualification for any office of the state, civil or military; and the reproaches with which Demosthenes overwhelms Æschines, in his celebrated oration De Corona, on account of his acting, are not levelled at the profession itself, but against the man: "You" says Demosthenes "was "a bad actor of inferior parts; I hissed you "for your unskilfulness, and the people "chastised you severely on the same "account,"

And

And now there remains only the prototype of all the great actors, Roscius himself, to whom I can, with any hope of approaching to equality of character, compare Mr. Garrick. The many high encomiums bestowed on this wonderful player by Cicero and others, justly exalt him in the opinion of all men. His integrity, modesty, liberality and generosity, were as great essentials in his character as his skill in playing. Cicero computed the annual gains of this actor at 5000l.* Such was the generosity of his temper, that, for the last ten years of his life, fully satisfied with the emoluments which the public had bestowed on him, he acted without any fee or reward.†

The

* Middleton's Cicero, Vol. I.

† The fortune of the Roman actor must have been greatly superior to that of Mr. Garrick; in all probability, it was more than 20 times as large; for Roscius's friend Æsopus, the tragedian, at a grand entertainment which he gave, produced a single dish, computed by Dr. Arbuthnot to be worth no less than 4843l. 10s. in which, to enhance the value of it, he put singing birds. At this we must not be surprised; for these actors

The people of Rome (says Cicero, speaking of Roscius) esteem him to be a more excellent citizen than an actor; and while his wonderful skill places him at the head of his profession, his moderation and virtue render him worthy of a place in the senate *. Valerius Maximus assures us, that Roscius did not only gain the favour of the common people, but was admitted to the friendship of persons in the highest rank.

I grant that Roscius was a man of the most respectable character in private life, as well as a consummate actor, admitted to the friendships of the greatest men of the greatest people in the world. But as the actor in England is not in a degree of humiliation like that of a comedian of Rome, there is still a degrading condescension in

actors were not only the favourites of the great lords of the world, but were admired, courted and caressed by the kings allied to Rome, and the tributary princes of the Roman empire.

* Ciceronis Oratio pro Q. Roscio Comædo.

those

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those honours paid to Roscius, to which a Garrick must be a stranger. The Englishman merits, and boldly, though modestly, puts in his claim. The Roman merits too, and humbly solicits. Roscius, we know, frequented the levees of the great; and he might possibly have supped with Cæsar, Cicero, and Lucullus, though we have no record to prove such a supposition; nor can we suppose that these great men were ever entertained by Roscius; but we know with certainty, that persons of the most elevated rank in the kingdom, as well as the greatest and bravest of our generals and admirals, have dined with Mr. Garrick, and thought it no favour conferred upon him, nor any mark of condescension in them. The Roman actor was in a state of patronage; the English comedian seems to have merited and commanded equality.

But the honours paid to Garrick were not confined to his own country; foreigners of the first rank, and great ministers, have sought his friendship, from the report of his general worth. When in France, he was intimate with Mr. Neckar, the great financier,

financier, and with Mr. De St. Foix; with these statesmen, and their ladies, Mr. Garrick often corresponded.

The duke de Nivernois, when ambassador plenipotentiary in England from the court of Versailles, paid the highest respect to our Roscius, and made a magnificent entertainment for him and Mrs. Garrick; and, I believe, accepted an invitation to dine with them at Hampton. There was scarce any foreign ambassador that did not make it a point to be acquainted with this singular genius.

What were the qualities of Garrick's mind, and what were the personal accomplishments which attracted the love and respect of the greatest and worthiest part of mankind, it will be natural to enquire. A sound understanding; great propriety of behaviour; attention to please, without meanness or officiousness; a power to delight, without transgressing the laws of decency; a constant uniform and regular conduct thro' life; a firmness of temper not dazzled with the splendor of high rank, tho' ever attentive to what was due to superiority. A credit due to a man possessed of a large fortune acquired by his ability and industry, and preserved by rational œconomy.

His

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His capacity was more extensive than his learning, and his knowledge much greater than could be expected from a man so beset with various business. Mr. Walmfley recommended him to Mr. Colson as a good scholar, and I suppose he meant by it, that he had made a considerable proficiency in the Latin language. Mr. Garrick assured me that he was once master of all the original Greek words; and this Dr. Johnson in part confirmed, for he knew, he said, that Walmfley had made him a present of the *Racines Grecques*, on condition that he should get by heart a certain portion of them every day. He was a master of the French language, and spoke it fluently; he understood Italian, but could not long maintain a conversation in it; Spanish he could read, but, I believe, with some difficulty. A mind like his was continually improving from the company with which he was constantly surrounded. His house was a rendezvous for excellence of every kind; for lights of the church, and guardians of the laws; for the learned, the elegant, the polite, and the accomplished

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in all arts and sciences, so that he was continually drawing from the great fountains of wisdom and knowledge; from Warburton and Hurd; from Camden and Mansfield; from the earl of Chesterfield and George lord Lyttleton; from Dr. Samuel Johnson and Edmund Burke; from Mr. Dunning and Charles Fox; from Sir Joshua Reynolds and Sir William Chambers; from the two Drs. Warton; from Mr. Mason and Mr. Caddock; from Mr. Paul and Mr. William Whitehead; from Mr. Cambridge and Mr. Colman; from Dr. Douglas and the dean of Carlisle; from Dr. Robertson and Mr. Wedderburne; and from all that were eminent for their worth, and distinguished by their genius.

From such companions, the mind of a Garrick, strong in its own natural force, received a large accession of the most extensive and useful knowledge, and an exhaustless treasure of topics for conversation. His manner of conversing was exceedingly pleasing, not only from the matter of which his words was composed, but his manner of uttering them Pope, from the sweetness
and

and softness of his tones in conversation, was called the Nightingale; Garrick, from the brisk and chearful melody of his pronunciation, might with propriety be termed the Lark.

He was not so shining, nor so exuberant in his manner of conversing, as his acquaintance Foote; but he was more agreeable, not only by his not overpowering the company with the superiority and brilliancy of his wit, but by his moderation in the use of those talents of which he was master. Foote was not satisfied without subduing his guests; Mr. Garrick confined his power of conversing to the art of making every man pleased with him. The conversation of Foote resembled a great furnace, whose heat was so intense, that it obliged you to stand at a distance from it; that of Mr. Garrick may be compared to a fire, which diffuses its heat gently and comfortably all over the apartment. Foote's images of ridicule, and portraits of characters, were strong, vigorous, and resembling; but the hearer always felt a mixture of pain with his pleasure,

sure, lest he also should be made in his turn the subject of derision. Garrick excelled in telling apt and lively stories, and in drawing characters full of grotesque and burlesque images; his humour was pleasing, because it was not confined to particular satire, but diverted to general objects. Foote was a better scholar than Garrick, and could discuss a learned argument with classical authority: Garrick reasoned conclusively, but never ventured beyond his depth. Foote broke down every fence of morality, decency, and religion; and, to insure a laugh, would deal in scandal, obscenity, and profaneness: Garrick always paid a proper respect to himself and his company, by avoiding discourse which would give offence to piety and good manners. Foote raised admiration and loud mirth: Garrick gained constant approbation, and excited pleasing cheerfulness.

Foote was much admired and resorted to by persons of the highest quality; what use he made of his acquaintance I shall not enquire, for I wish not to draw any invidious

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ous parallels, I shall only assert what I certainly know of Mr. Garrick, from his many and great connexions with persons of quality and rank; that no man, except a prime minister, had such ability to serve a number of people as himself; and I will with boldness aver, that no man exerted that influence to the well-being of others, more pertinaciously than Mr. Garrick; towards the prosecuting this benevolent business, the activity of his mind, and the generosity of his temper, equally contributed. Amidst the various toils of a painful occupation, he always found leisure to promote the happiness of others; in this he seemed to take uncommon delight. He was never weary of the divine office of doing good. He loved and encouraged the elegant arts of painting, sculpture, &c. he promoted the interests of its professors to the utmost of his ability. Such authors as applied to him were sure to have his interest. I shall only mention, on this head, the very large subscription he obtained for Mr. Lloyd. The man who never denied a favour to others, could not

be refused when he became a solicitor himself.

Should I relate half the services which Mr. Garrick effected for others, by his constant and unwearied application to his noble and powerful acquaintance, I should greatly exceed the bounds I have prescribed to my history. I will just mention one, on account of its singularity : Mr. Beighton, the honest vicar of Egham, was a man peculiar in his outward figure, and in his manner of conversation ; he had an odd rustic appearance, and talked in the broad dialect of Yorkshire. Under this plain form he concealed a goodness of heart, which shewed itself in a readiness to do any office of kindness in his reach, and a vein of humour in his conversation which was more entertaining from its being unexpected. In his garden he had a great variety of exotic plants, and in his library a collection of very valuable books, elegantly bound. His income was small, and made less by the generosity of his temper ; he gave of his little store to all who came to visit his library and plants.

No

No private clergyman was known to more people of fashion, or more beloved than he; and yet, tho' all men promised to serve him, by getting him an additional living to his small vicarage, nothing was done for him by his great and noble friends. The late duke of Cumberland knew him well, and valued him much; he erected a chapel near Windsor Lodge, with a view to employ him as his chaplain; but the duke's death prevented his generous and pious intention. Mr. Garrick was the friend and constant visitor of Mr. Beighton. No sooner was lord chief justice Pratt appointed chancellor, than he applied to him in favour of Mr. Beighton; his lordship, without any hesitation, presented him with the first living that fell to his gift. This was for the remainder of his life, which was not long; a considerable relief to a man far advanced in years, and greatly afflicted with the gout. It enabled him to part with a small curacy, in a place at some distance from his vicarage, where he was obliged to do duty every other Sunday.

Mr. Garrick, as an author, who wrote so much, and tried his skill in so many different species of writing, could not, perhaps, be of the first class in any one, though he has shewn proofs of genius in all. In epigram, ode, comedy, farce; in essays, in letters, prologues and epilogues.

Many of his epigrams have the spirit and turn of Martial. His ode on Mr. Pelham's death has more good sense than poetical fancy, though in that it is not deficient. His share in the *Clandestine Marriage* has not been ascertained, but the character of Lord Ogilby is generally allotted to him; and that, I believe, is allowed to be a masterpiece. There was a difficulty which attended the drawing this character, from his having given in his *Lethe* another admirable character of a quality debauchee, Lord Chalkstone. In most of his dramatic pieces there is to be found real character, though not always equally well drawn; discrimination of humour, modish affectation, fashionable folly, or some irregular gaiety of the times. He was a perfect master of
stage

stage oeconomy ; he rarely offends in the conduct of his plot, and the right management of his scenes ; and to all his other dramatic excellences he added decency and morality. His prologues and epilogues are an excellent supplement to the history of the times ; they present to us certain domestic facts, to which our graver writers cannot stoop. These little pieces of poetry contain, if I may be allowed the expression, the farcical transactions of the age. The author catches at every new object of ridicule as it rises, and paints it with humour and truth. I will not say there is as much wit and poetry in these productions as in those of the same species, by Dryden ; but I will venture to affirm, they contain much more information, and more mirth. Those who can trace his letters and essays in the news-papers, will find many just observations and acute criticisms on manners, customs, and characters. His vein of pleasantry is easy, flowing, and original. Many of his epitaphs are well written and characteristic.

After all, though his general character as a writer is very respectable, it seems to be lessened by the greatness of his reputation as a comedian. Moliere was a good actor, but his superior fame as an author has obscured his merit as a player. Baron was a successful writer, though not equal in general power and variety to Mr. Garrick; yet his comedies are much applauded for a perfect knowledge of the stage, for vivacity of dialogue, and variety of incident. Baron does not often present great and masterly portraits, but he copies from nature certain original characters, as offensive and importunate in society as they are diverting on the stage. I chiefly allude, in this account of his plays, to *L'Homme à bonne fortune*, *Le Rendezvous des Tuilleries*, *Les Enlevemens*, *La Coquette*, *Le Jaloux*. The reader of Baron's plays will perceive, that he, like Garrick, studied the world as well as the stage. But the French scarce ever speak of him as an author; his great fame as an actor has entirely engrossed their ideas of him; and people seldom give them-

themselves time to parcel out their attention in favour of the same man ; the greater object swallows up the less.

Not to have some faults with so much intrinsic worth, would have exceeded the lot of humanity. His virtues so greatly preponderate when weighed with his defects, that it would be folly to conceal them ; and yet he was not without failings which his friends wish he had been free from.

His faults were partly constitutional, and partly professional : I mean by the latter such as arise from a man's business. A physician, for example, though a gentleman, and a man of strict honour, will not tell his patient, unnecessarily, that his distemper is of an alarming nature. Mr. Garrick, as a manager of a theatre, who had variety of commerce with authors, actors, painters, scenemen, &c. &c. thought himself obliged, often, to be on his guard against innumerable requests, questions, claims, and petitions of a thousand people. The quickness of his conceptions, and the precipitance of his temper, obliged him to

make use of that caution, which some persons think degenerated into art. I do not remember, that in the younger part of his life, and before he was a manager, that he had any notable hesitation of speech, which afterwards was so universally observed in him. Had he embraced a more decided conduct in his management of the theatre, he would, in all probability, have had fewer hours of vexation. With all his prudence, he sometimes could not check the warmth of his temper, which would break out into unguarded expressions. Of this impropriety he generally was sensible, and made ample reparation to the person whose mind he had disturbed. Little and peevish marks of displeasure would sometimes escape from him at rehearsals ; but when he was not ruffled by any trifling accident abroad, (which, it must be owned, was frequently) he would, during the intervals of business, enliven the whole theatre by his gaiety and mirth, which shewed themselves in a thousand shapes, in jests, bon mots, apt stories, and vivacities, all thrown out
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in a manner so pleasing, so frolicksome and original, that all were made happy by his good humour.

The great sensibility of his temper was often a great snare to him; it was a temptation to those who had no feeling, to take advantage of what is really an honour to human nature.

Sensibility is the best proof of a good mind; and an earnest to the public, that he who possesses it has a great reverence and respect for the public. He, indeed, carried this quick sense or feeling of the mind too far: a false report would alarm him; a paragraph or a letter in a news-paper, or a pamphlet, would, for a time, greatly affect him. Many that knew his weakness in this respect, would take ungenerous advantages of it. He had justly acquired a very great reputation, and he feared lest the base, unfounded aspersions of men, who had no character of their own to lose, should make more impression on the world than it was possible they could. It has been said, that neither Betterton, Booth, Wilkes,

Wilkes, nor Cibber, were hurt by such arrows as were sure to wound Mr. Garrick. I find, on perusal of some pamphlets relating to the theatre, that Betterton was, of all players, most happily exempt from public censure; he was so greatly fortunate in pleasing all ranks of people, that he was called *Infallible Tom*, a name which I remember to have seen given him in an old ballad, written, I think, in the reign of Charles II. Booth would not trouble himself with the management of the stage, and Wilkes confided in Cibber; so that all the squibs in news-papers and pamphlets, from the year 1711 to 1733, were aimed at Cibber alone, who had luckily a callous temper which despised every attack from the press. However, it will be owned, that Mr. Garrick was a man of more consideration in the eyes of the public, and consequently in his own, than these great actors were. His fears increased with his fame: *Nec minus periculum ex magna, quam ex mala fama*. But if sensibility was really a fault, it was of the amiable kind.

But

But the precipitation of his temper hurried him, very often, into as unhappy difficulties as his too great sensibility. He was apt to be too soon struck with any thing that offered to his mind; and he would, in the ardour of a moment, promise what his cooler reflections told him he ought not to perform; nay, he would be sometimes betrayed into promising what indeed he neither could, nor ought, to fulfil. This failing accompanied him, more or less, through life, and brought along with it much vexation. In his dispute with Mr. Macklin, from a regard to impartiality, I have decided against Mr. Garrick; but every candid person will, on reflection, be convinced, that though he did not fulfil his agreement with that actor, he had no intention, originally, to deceive or mislead. He had entangled himself in a web, thro' which he could not escape without breaking it.

His worst fault was jealousy, which was in him little less than envy, that hateful disease of the mind, from which few men are exempt, yet what all men disown; for I never
knew

knew any man, but one, who had the honesty and courage to confess that he had a tincture of envy in him*. He, indeed, generously owned that he was not a stranger to it; at the same time he declared that he endeavoured to subdue it.

Mr. Garrick, who scarce ever had a competitor, and, perhaps, will never have an equal, was weak enough to be alarmed at every shadow of a rival. Though, in the opinion of the world, he stood upon a pedestal, looking down upon all actors as his inferiors; yet, sometimes, from the impulse of theatric jealousy, he would condescend to raise the meanest shrub of the stage to a level with himself. This seems to have been a proper punishment for his want of candour; for I never remember to have heard him speak warmly in the commendation of any actor, living or dead. If great examples can excuse or alleviate a fault so unworthy of such a man, we can bring a Pope, an Addison, and many others,

* Dr. Johnson.

to speak for him, who were equally guilty, with a much greater degree of ill-will.

Mr. Garrick had, I believe, a sovereign contempt for the players who lived before him, more especially the tragedians. The false taste and ranting peculiarities of some stage heroes, who were in possession of the great characters when he first tried his fortune on the stage, might probably lead him into a persuasion that the predecessors of these men were like them: but Mrs. Cibber and Mrs. Pritchard, who had preceded him six or seven years, were such instances of natural elocution, that he ought to have judged more liberally. Quin, indeed, he cried up to the skies for a great Falstaff; but this was but scanty praise of a man who excelled so variously.

But however low he might estimate the abilities of his contemporaries, I never heard that he treated any of them, when under his direction, with unfairness. He who alone was worthy the name of a competitor to Mr. Garrick, was Mr. Barry; in some few parts, it will not be disputed, I believe,

believe, that he excelled him. But the manager's conduct to him always indicated his inclination to be on the best terms with so valuable an actor. Barry gave but very unsatisfactory reasons, as I have been told, for quitting Mr. Garrick in 1750, and engaging with Mr. Rich.

Mossop was an actor of merit ; and though his recitation and action were not entirely approved by Mr. Garrick, yet this unhappy gentleman did himself infinite harm by listening to the flatteries of those who exalted him to a rivalship with his master : had he taken his counsel, he might, in all probability, have been alive now, and in affluent circumstances.

Mr. Garrick was too apt to listen to stories and idle tales that were brought to him, of what this man did, or that man said of him, or any of his actors ; all such sort of news he greedily swallowed ; though, at the same time, he was laying a plot to hurt his own mind. Many things will be said of every man, that no man should be solicitous to know ; but should rather
check

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check the officious tale-bearer, who pesters him with what must give him more uneasiness than pleasure to hear. As he was warm in his friendship, he was sincere in his resentments, and not easily pacified when he felt or apprehended any degree of ingratitude; however, to his honour it must be owned, that he was far from implacability, as several could testify, who gave him great and unmerited provocation.

His manner of living was splendid, though somewhat below his income, as became a prudent man. By some he was said to be parsimonious, nay, avaricious: others gave out that he made too great and ostentatious a parade of magnificence, unbecoming the condition of a player. To attempt to please all the world, would be just as idle, as to despise its censures when founded upon truth or probability. Mr. Garrick kept a plentiful table; he rejoiced to see his friends at his board; he kept horses and carriages, and had a number of servants, and equipage, such as became a man of his large fortune; but all his expences were regulated by the strictest œconomy. The

The abhorrence of profusion and waste he imbibed from his earliest years ; and this moderation, during that tide of wealth which flowed in upon him constantly, enabled him to do many acts of kindness and charity. No man seemed more anxious to get money, and none more willing to bestow it generously. To those who knew the sums he constantly gave away, it would appear, that his sole end of acquiring wealth was for the benefit of others. I shall not talk of his more public charities and contributions ; I mean such actions only as were less known to the world ; his benevolence was not a sudden start of humour, as shewed itself in such acts of favour as proceed from sudden whim and caprice ; his bounty resembled a large, noble, and flowing river,

That glorify'd the banks which bound it in.

It was a very honourable circumstance of his life, that in the very dawnings of success, when he first tasted of Fortune's favours, and had acquired a very moderate portion of riches, he opened his hand to those who solicited his kindness, and

was

was ready to assist all who applied to him. His mind was so bountiful, that he scarce knew what it was to deny. He was once solicited by a friend to give a trifle to a poor widow. He asked how much he should give. About two guineas. No, that I will not. Why, then, give what you please. He presented his friend with a bank note of 30l. Of this I should despise the mention, if it were a matter of rarity and wonder. A gentlewoman, who had known him from his youth, and had been acquainted with his relations at Lichfield, applied to him for assistance in her necessities. He made her a present of one hundred pounds. He had several almoners, to whom he gave sums of money to distribute to such objects as they approved. Heaven only knows the extent of that beneficence which flowed continually from this large-minded man.

There are two remarkably generous deeds of Mr. Garrick, which are so well authenticated, that it would be an act of injustice to his memory to conceal them from the

world. A gentleman of fashion, and a man universally beloved and esteemed, borrowed five hundred pounds of Mr. Garrick, for which sum he gave his note of hand. By some vicissitude of fortune the affairs of this gentleman were greatly distressed; his friends and relations, who loved him, were determined to free him from uneasiness, by satisfying his creditors. A day of meeting for that purpose was appointed, on which they were to be very chearful. Mr. Garrick heard of it, and instead of taking advantage of the information to put in his claim, he inclosed the 500l. note in a letter, in which he told the gentleman, that he had been informed, that a jovial meeting was to take place between him and his friends, and that it was to be a bonfire-day, he therefore desired he would consign the inclosed note to the flames.

The other anecdote is still more to Mr. Garrick's honour. He was very intimate with an eminent surgeon, who died several years since, a very amiable man, who often dined and supped with Mr. and Mrs. Garrick.

rick. One day after dinner the gentleman declared, that his affairs were in such a situation, that without the assistance of a friend, who would lend him a thousand pounds, he should be at a loss what to do. A thousand pounds! said Mr. Garrick, that is a devilish large sum! well now, pray what security can you give for that money? Upon my word, replied the surgeon, no other than my own. Here's a pretty fellow, said Roscius, turning to Mrs. Garrick, he wants a thousand pounds upon his personal security! Well, come, I'll tell you one thing for your comfort; I know a man, that at my desire will lend you a thousand pounds. He immediately drew upon his banker for that sum, and gave the draft to his friend. Mr. Garrick never asked for, or received a shilling of it.

Innumerable stories of humanity, generosity, and charity, could be told of him, enough to fill a volume. I have heard Dr. Johnson say, that he believed David Garrick gave away more money than any man in London. Some, perhaps, may call his

charity ostentation ; be it so, but ostentation is not avarice. Strip every man that does an act of kindness of the love of fame in doing it, and to what a small heap you will reduce that vast mountain of benevolence of which the world now boasts ! Such ostentation as Mr. Garrick's, if it was ostentation, was a glorious virtue ; and I heartily wish he had many imitators.

The true character of a man is always more accurately known to his neighbours than to the world at large ; to those who live with him, near him, and round about him, than to persons at a distance. Go then, you who still entertain a doubt of Mr. Garrick's charity and benevolence ; go to Hampton, and learn what every inhabitant of that village will say of him ; they will tell you, from their own knowledge and experience, that his loss is generally and heavily felt ; that it is so great, they cannot hope it will be soon repaired ; that the poor inhabitants of that place have, in him, lost a kind friend and an affectionate father ; that his benefactions to them were continually

continually increasing ; that, amongst other instances of his paternal regard for the poor, he had, a few years before his death, instituted a little annual feast for children. Every first of May he invited all the children of the village to come into his garden ; there he distributed to them large pieces of cake, with a small present of money ; and on this anniversary, I have been told, it was his intention in future to have increased his donations. He was as great a prodigy of unlimited bounty, as of extensive genius.

To conclude : No man of his profession had ever been so much the object of admiration ; few men were ever more beloved ; nor was any man better formed to adorn society, or more sincerely disposed and qualified to serve mankind, than David Garrick.



A P P E N D I X.

T E S T I M O N I E S

O F

Mr. GARRICK's GENIUS and MERITS.

To Mr. GARRICK, at Mount Edgecombe.

By the Earl of CHATHAM.

LEAVE, Garrick, the rich landskip, proudly gay,
Docks, forts, and navies, bright'ning all the bay,
To my plain roof repair, primæval seat !
Yet there no wonders your quick eyes can meet ;
Save, should you deem it wonderful to find,
Ambition cur'd, and an unpassion'd mind ;
A statesman without pow'r and without gall,
Hating no courtiers, happier than them all ;
Bow'd to no yoke, nor crouching for applause ;
Vot'ry, alone, to freedom and the laws.
Herds, flocks, and smiling Ceres deck our plain,
And interspers'd an heart-enlivening train

Of sportive children, frolic o'er the green ;
 Mean time pure love looks on and consecrates the scene.
 Come then, immortal spirit of the stage,
 Great Nature's proxy, glass of ev'ry age ;
 Come, taste the simple life of patriarchs old,
 Who, rich in rural peace, ne'er thought of pomp and
 gold,

At this man's (Mr. Walmsley) table I enjoyed many chearful and instructive hours ; with companions such as are not often to be found ; with one who has lengthened, and one who has gladdened life : with Dr. James, whose skill in phylic will be long remembered ; and with David Garrick, whom I hoped to have gratified with this character of our common friend : but what are the hopes of man ! I am disappointed by that stroke of death which has eclipsed the gaiety of nations, and impoverished the public stock of harmless pleasure.

Dr. Johnson's Life of Edmund Smith,

We, therefore, of Great Britain, have more reason to congratulate ourselves on two very singular phœnomena ; I mean, Shakespeare's being able to pourtray characters so very different as Falstaff and Macbeth ; and Garrick's being able to personate so inimitably

inimitably a Lear and an Abel Drugger. Nothing can more fully demonstrate the extent and versatility of these two original geniuses.

Dr. Warton's Essay on the Genius and Writings
of Pope.

W. WHITEHEAD, Esq; to Mr. GARRICK.

ON old Parnassus, t'other day,
The muses met to sing and play ;
Apart from all the rest were seen
The tragic and the comic queen,
Engag'd, perhaps, in deep debate
On Rich's, or on Fleetwood's fate ;
When, on a sudden, news was brought,
That Garrick had the patent got,
And both their ladyships again
Might now return to Drury-lane.
They bow'd, they simper'd, and agreed,
They wish'd the project might succeed ;
'Twas very possible ; the case
Was likely too, and had a face—
A face ! Thalia titt'ring cry'd,
And could her joy no longer hide ;
Why, sister, all the world may see
How much this makes for you and me ;

No

No longer now shall we expose
Our unbought goods to empty rows,
Or meanly be oblig'd to court
From foreign aid a weak support ;
No more the poor polluted scene
Shall teem with births of Harlequin ;
Or vindicated stage shall feel
The insults of the dancer's heel :
Such idle trash we'll kindly spare
To operas now ----they'll want them there ;
For Sadler's-wells, they say, this year
Has quite outdone their engineer.
Poh ! you're a wag, the buskin'd prude
Reply'd and smil'd ; besides 'tis rude
To laugh at foreigners, you know,
And triumph o'er a vanquish'd foe :
For my part, I shall be content
If things succeed as they are meant ;
And should not be displeas'd to find
Some changes of the tragic kind ;
And say, Thalia, mayn't we hope
The stage may take a larger scope ?
Shall he, whose all-expressive pow'rs
Can reach the heights which Shakespeare soars,
Descend to touch a lower key,
And tickle ears with poetry ;

Where

Where ev'ry tear is taught to flow
Thro' many a line's melodious woe,
And heart-felt pangs of deep distress
Are fritter'd into similies ?
O thou ! whom Nature taught the art
To pierce, to cleave, to tear the heart,
Whatever name delight thy ear,
Othello, Richard, Hamlet, Lear,
O undertake my just defence,
And banish all but Nature hence !
See ! to thy aid, with streaming eyes,
The fair, afflicted *Constance flies ;
Now wild as winds, in madness tears
Her heaving breasts, and scatter'd hairs,
Or low on earth disdains relief,
With all the conscious pride of grief.
My Pritchard too, in Hamlet's queen——
The goddess of the sportive vein
Here stopp'd her short, and with a sneer,
My Pritchard, if you please my dear !
Her tragic merit I confess,
But surely mine's her proper dress :
Behold her there, with native ease,
And native spirit, born to please ;

* Mrs. Cibber in the character of Lady Constance in
Shakespeare's King John.

With all Maria's charms engage,
Or Milwood's rants, or Touchwood's rage;
Thro' ev'ry foible trace the fair,
Or leave the town, and toilet's care,
To chant in forests unconfin'd,
The wilder notes of Rosalind.
O thou! where-e'er thou fix thy praise,
Brute, Druggier, Fribble, Ranger, Bays!
O join with her in my behalf!
And teach an audience when to laugh.
So shall buffoons with shame repair,
To draw in fools at Smithfield fair,
And real humour charm the age,
Tho' * Falstaff should forsake the stage.
She Spoke. Melpomene reply'd;
And much was said on either side;
And many a chief and many a fair
Were mention'd, to their credit, there.
But I'll not venture to display
What goddesses think fit to say;
However, Garrick, this at least
Appears by both a truth confess,
That their whole fate for many a year
But hangs on your paternal care;

* Mr. Quin inimitable in that character, who was then leaving the stage.

A nation's taste depends on you,
— Perhaps a nation's virtue too.
O think how glorious t'were to raise
A theatre to virtue's praise !
Where no indignant blush might rise,
Nor wit be taught to plead for vice ;
But ev'ry young attentive ear
Imbibe the precepts living there ;
And every unexperienc'd breast
There feel its own rude hints express,
And, waken'd by the glowing scene,
Unfold the worth that lurks within.
If possible, be perfect quite ;
A few short rules will guide you right :
Consult your own good sense in all ;
Be deaf to fashion's fickle call ;
Not e'er descend from reason's laws
To court, what you command, applause.

— So when great Shakespear to his Garrick join'd,
With mutual aid conspire to rouse the mind,
'Tis not a scene of idle mimicry,
'Tis Lear's, Hamlet's, Richard's self we see.
We feel the actor's strength, the poet's fire ;
With joy we praise, with rapture we admire,
To see such pow'rs within the reach of art,
And fiction thus subdue the human heart.

Translation, a Poem, by Dr. Franklin.

— If

— If manly sense, if nature link'd with art,
 If thorough knowledge of the human heart,
 If powers of acting vast and unconfin'd,
 If fewest faults with greatest virtues join'd,
 If strong expression, and strange powers which lie
 Within the magic circle of his eye,
 If feelings, which few hearts like his can know,
 And which no face, like his, so well can shew,
 Deserve the preference ---- Garrick ! take the chair,
 Nor quit it, till thou place an equal there.

Churchill's Rosciad.

WHERE is the blest memorial that ensures
 Our Garrick's fame ?—whose is the trust —
 'tis yours.

And O ! by ev'ry charm his art essay'd
 To sooth your cares ! by ev'ry grief allay'd !
 By the hush'd wonder which his accents drew !
 By his last parting tear, repaid by you !
 By all those thoughts, which many a distant night,
 Shall mark his mem'ry with a sad delight ! —
 Still in your heart's dear record bear his name ;
 Cherish the keen regret that lifts his fame :
 To you it is bequeath'd, assert the trust,
 And to his worth — 'tis all you can — be just.
 What more is due from sanctifying time
 To chearful wit, and many a favour'd rhyme,

O'er

O'er his grac'd urn shall bloom a deathless wreath,
 Whose blossom'd sweets shall deck the mask beneath.
 For these, — when sculpture's votive toil shall rear
 The due memorial of a loss so dear! —
 O loveliest mourner! gentle muse! be thine
 The pleasing woe to guard the laurell'd shrine;
 As fancy, oft by superstition led
 To roam the mansions of the fainted dead,
 Has view'd, by shadowy eve's unfaithful gloom,
 A weeping cherub on a martyr's tomb —
 So thou, sweet muse, hang o'er his sculptur'd bier,
 With patient woe, that loves the ling'ring tear;
 With thoughts that mourn — nor yet desire relief,
 With meek regret, and fond endearing grief;
 With looks that speak — he never shall return! —
 Chilling thy tender bosom, clasp his urn;
 And with soft sighs disperse th' irrev'rend dust
 Which time may strew upon his sacred bust.

Sheridan's Verses to the Memory of Mr. Garrick.

PROLOGUE, Written and Spoken by
 HOUSTON STEWART NICOLSON, Esq; on
 his performing the Character of Richard the
 Third.

TO night a thund'ring genius shakes your stage,
 He comes to roar, to mouth, to storm and rage;
 Conscious such pow'rs your passions must engage.
 So

So — clear the stage there! — ladies, by your favour,
Nay, I don't joke, I'll shew you something clever.

Well, then, shall we have a horrid scene?

Nay, only but by way of specimen. —

Ay, ay, we'll have a horrid scene!

Hah! — hah! — hah —

I see you wonder at my tragic stare,

But 'tis my way, I generally prepare;

I know too well the secrets of our trade,

To speak a line before my face be made;

For by the previous sett'ling of each feature,

I so far trick, and take the start of Nature,

That long ere she can make you one wry face,

I'm tow'ring in the zenith of grimace.

But I'm tedious; let example teach;

Shall we go back, and finish this same speech?

“Hah! — bless my soul! — what means this dismal voice?”

Did you not think that rather wanted noise?

————— We'll try another.

“See thou — deliver — to my lord — this letter.”

Aye, that's like acting — that's a great deal better.

Tho' faith I'm not in cue — another time

If I don't tickle you for mirth and rhyme.

I play'd a character but t'other night,

Damme! I topt your Garrick out of sight.

He can't perform like me, nay, you'll avow it;

Nature, (his oracle) she won't allow it.

Do

Do what he will, she's ever at his sleeve,
Nor dare he speak or look without her leave:
If he but stand, walk, nay, but turn or wheel,
She, spaniel like, must course him at his heel.
The pilfering rogue has nothing of his own;
'Tis she that taught him ev'ry thing he's done.
Why now in Hamlet, and his much fam'd Lear,
Did I not catch her whisp'ring in his ear?
Upon my soul, I speak without a joke,
She tutor'd ev'ry syllable he spoke.
And whilst the crowd admir'd the servile creature,
I'll take my oath that ev'ry line was Nature;
And tho' 'tis thirty years since he began,
You'll find no alteration in the man.
Thirty! 'tis more since first he came about her,
And yet the devil a bit he'll budge without her.
I ask'd this lady once to shew her plan,
She smil'd — and pointed to her little man:
“ Observe, she said, Oh give him heedful note!
“ And leave your bellowing thro' that blust'ring throat,
“ Nor still, with pompous and unmeaning air,
“ Storm without passion, without wonder stare,
“ But thro' my various windings mark him still,
“ And let my Garrick mould you at his will;
“ He can instruct in ev'ry thing I know,
“ I told him all my secrets long ago.”

VOL. II.

D d

Madam,

Madam, said I, methinks you're wond'rous free,
 How can you take such liberties with me ?
 Did e'er I come within a thousand miles
 To pilfer from you either tears or smiles ?
 No, Ma'am, I've been performing many years,
 Have broke the drums of twenty thousand ears ;
 Ranting and mouthing still from scene to scene,
 Have stunn'd the women, and amaz'd the men ;
 And o'er the whole, with super-human roar,
 Have squeez'd the quintessence of tragic pow'r ;
 And since you force me, Ma'am, I'll say it flat,
 By Jupiter ! I never ow'd you — that !

(Snapping his fingers)

Nature and Garrick both confess'd 'twas true ;
 How well they judg'd, I must submit to you.

LIST of Characters acted by Mr. GARRICK.

A.

Antony and Cleopatra — Antony
 Alchemist — Abel Drugger
 Athelstan — Athelstan
 Agis — Lyfander
 Alfred — Alfred

B.

Barbarossa — Achmet
 Busy Body — Marplot

Boadicea

Boadicea — Dumnorix
 Brothers — Demetrius

C.

Chances — Don John
 Creufa — Aletes
 Cymbeline — Posthumus
 Careless Husband — Lord Foppington

D.

Discovery — Sir Anthony Bramble
 Distrest Mother — Orestes

E.

Every Man in his Humour — Kitley
 Edward the Black Prince — Edward
 Eurydice — Periander
 Elvira — King, Don Alonzo IV.
 Eugenia — Mercæur

F.

Foundling — Belmont
 Fair Penitent — Lothario and Sciolto
 Farmer's Return — Farmer
 Fatal Marriage — Byron

G.

The Gamester, a tragedy — Beverly
 The Gamesters, a comedy — Wilding
 Gil Blas a comedy — Gil Blas
 Guardian, a farce — Guardian

H.

Henry IV. 1st part — Hotspur
 ——— 2d part — The King
 ——— 5th part — Chorus

I.

Inconstant — Duretete
 Jane Shore — Hastings
 John (King) — King, and the Bastard
 Jealous Wife — Oakly
 Isabella — Byron
 Irene — Demetrius

L.

Lear — Lear
 Love makes a Man — Clody
 Lethe, or Æsop in the Shades — Lord Chalkstone,
 Poet, Drunken Man, and Frenchman
 Lying Valet — Sharp
 Love's Last Shift — Loveless

M.

Merope — Eumenes
 Macbeth — Macbeth
 Merry Wives of Windsor — Dr. Caius
 Much Ado about Nothing — Benedict
 Mock Doctor — Gregory
 Mourning Bride — Osmyn
 Mahomet — Zaphne
 Mifs in her Teens — Fribble
 Mistake — Carlos

O. Old

O.

Old Batchelor — Fondlewife
 Oroonoko — Oroonoko and Aboan
 Othello — Othello and Iago
 Orphan — Chamont
 Orphan of China — Zamti
 Ode on Shakespeare — Recitation of it

P.

Provok'd Wife — Sir John Brute
 Provok'd Husband — Lord Townly, Sir Francis
 Wronghead
 Pamela — Jack Smatter, supposed to be written by
 himself

R.

Richard III. — Richard, first time of his acting, Goodman's-fields, October 19, 1741
 Romeo and Juliet — Romeo and Mercutio
 Rehearsal — Bays
 Recruiting Officer — Plume, Capt. Brazen, and a
 Recruit
 Rule a Wife — Leon
 Roman Father — Horatius
 Regulus — Regulus

S.

Stratagem — Archer and Scrub
 Siege of Aquileia — Æmylius
 Suspicious Husband — Ranger
 School for Lovers — Sir J. Dorilant
 School-Boy — Master Johnny

T.

Trip to the Jubilee — Sir Harry Wildair
 Tancred and Sigismunda — Tancred
 Tender Husband — Sir Harry Gubbins

V.

Virginia — Virginius
 Venice Preserved — Jaffier and Pierre
 Upholsterer — Pamphlet

W.

Wonder, a Woman Keeps a Secret — Felix
 Way to keep him — Lovemore
 Winter's Tale — Leontes
 Wedding Day — Millamour

Z.

Zara — Lufignan

ORDER of Mr. GARRICK's Funeral.

FOUR men in mourning, with staves covered with black silk and scarfs, on horseback, as porters. Six ditto, with mourning cloaks, &c. A man in mourning, to bear the pennon, with scarf, &c. Two supporters. Six men in cloaks, as before. Surcoat of arms. Helmet, with crest, wreath, and mantlet. State lid of black ostrich feathers, surrounded by escutcheons. Hearse full dressed, with **THE BODY.**

State

State coach, empty ; a page on each side. Mourning coach, with the clergy of St. Martin's ; a page on each side. Six ditto, with the pall bearers, two in each coach ; six pages on each side. A ditto, with the chief mourner ; a page on each side. A ditto, with three family ditto. A ditto, with three physicians. A ditto, with surgeon and apothecaries ; a page on each side. A ditto, with Mess. Sheridan and Harris ; a page on each side. Three ditto, with a deputation of twelve gentlemen, performers from Drury-lane theatre ; three pages on each side. Two men in mourning, on horseback, with cloaks, &c. Three ditto, with a deputation of twelve gentlemen, performers from Covent-garden theatre ; three pages on each side. Two men in mourning, on horseback, with cloaks, &c. Four mourning coaches, with the members of the literary club ; four pages on each side. Two men in mourning, on horseback, with cloaks. Seven coaches with intimate friends of the deceased ; seven pages on each side. Mr. Garrick's coach empty. All the gentlemen's family coaches empty.

At about three the body was received at the great west door by the bishop of Rochester, dean of Westminster, who, attended by the gentlemen of the choir in their hoods and surplices, preceded the corpse up the center aisle, during which time the full organ and choir performed Purcell's grand funeral service. Arriving at the place of interment, immediately under the monument of Shakespeare, in Poet's Corner, the bishop performed the last sacred ceremony of the church ;

the choir sung another solemn strain, and the remains were deposited in a grave, doubly hallowed by a nation's grief, and the copious tears of private friendship.

The pall was supported by

Lord Camden,	Duke of Devonshire,
Earl of Offory,	Earl Spencer,
Rt. H. Mr. Rigby,	Viscount Palmerston,
Hon. Mr. Stanley,	Sir W. W. Wynne,
J. Patterfon, Esq;	Albany Wallis, Esq;

Dr. Johnson, Mr. Colman, Mr. Dunning, Mr. Burke, Col. Barre, the Hon. Charles Fox, William Whitehead, Esq; Mr. Harris, Lord Charles Spencer, Mr. Quarme, (deputy usher of the black rod) Mr. Bate, and a great number of gentlemen of distinction, either as men of rank, or men of literary fame, followed the herse in mourning coaches.

Mess. Carrington and Nathan Garrick (nephews of the deceased) were the only persons of the family who were present.

Mess. Yates, King, Smith, Vernon, Parsons, Dodd, Aickin, Palmer, Bensley, Brereton, Moody, and Badely, attended as the committee of Drury-lane theatre.

The following as the committee of Covent-garden theatre : Mess. Lewis, Lewes, Hull, Clarke, Wroughton, Reinhold, Aickin, Baker, Quick, Wilson, Mattocks and Whitfield.

A greater concourse of people attended than was ever known on a similar occasion,

Mr.

Mr. GARRICK'S WILL.

I DAVID GARRICK, of the Adelphi, and of Hampton in the county of Middlesex, Esquire, do make public and declare this to be my last will and testament, as follows: I give and devise unto the Right Hon. Charles Lord Camden, the Right Hon. Richard Rigby, John Patterson, Esq; and Albany Wallis, Esq; of Norfolk-street, all that my dwelling-house at Hampton aforesaid, and the out-houses, stables, yards, gardens, orchards, lands, and grounds thereunto belonging, or therewith now by me used, occupied, or enjoyed, together with the two islands or aytes on the river Thames, with their and every of their appurtenances, and the statue of Shakespeare: and also all that my dwelling-house in the Adelphi, with the appurtenances; and also all and every the pictures, household goods, and furniture, of and in both the said houses at Hampton and Adelphi, at the time of my decease (of which an inventory shall be taken) To hold to the said Charles Lord Camden, Richard Rigby, John Paterfon, and Albany Wallis; their heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, in trust for and to the use of my wife Eva Maria Garrick, for and during the term of her natural life, for her own residence, she keeping the house and premises in good repair, and paying all quit-rents, taxes, and other rents and out-goings for the same: I give to my said wife all my household linen, silver plate, and china ware, which I shall die possessed of, or entitled unto, both in town and country; together with my
carriages.

carriages and horses, and all the stock in my cellars at both houses, to and for her own use and benefit : I also give to my said wife one thousand pounds, to be paid immediately after my death, out of the first money that shall be received by my executors : I give to my said wife the further sum of five thousand pounds, to be paid twelve months after my decease, with interest for the same, at the rate of four pounds *per centum* : and I also give to my said wife, Eva Maria Garrick, one clear annuity or yearly sum of fifteen hundred pounds of lawful money of Great Britain, for and during the term of her natural life, to be paid to her quarterly, to and for her sole and separate use, without being subject to the debts, controul, or intermeddling of any husband she shall or may marry, and her receipt alone to be sufficient discharges from time to time for the same, to my executors and trustees. It is my request and desire, that my wife shall continue in England, and make Hampton and the Adelphi her chief places of residence ; but if she shall leave England, and reside beyond sea, or in Scotland, or Ireland, in such case, which I hope will not happen, but in that case, I revoke, and make void all the devises and bequests to her, or for her use herein before mentioned, which shall, on such event, become due, and payable to her, and instead thereof, I give her only a clear annuity of one thousand pounds of lawful money of Great Britain, for and during the term of her natural life, payable quarterly. Provided nevertheless, and I hereby declare, that the provision hereby made for my wife, and the legacies and bequests hereby

hereby given to her, are meant and intended to be in lieu of and full satisfaction for the dividends, interest, and profits of ten thousand pounds, which by our marriage settlement is to be paid, and agreed to be invested in stocks, or securities, for the purposes therein mentioned; and also in bar, and full satisfaction of her dower, or thirds at common law, which she may be intitled to out of my real estates. And I further declare it to be an express condition, annexed to the said legacies and bequests, so given to my wife, that if she shall not, within three calendar months next after my decease, testify her consent in writing, to my executors, to take under this my will, and to relinquish all claim to the interest and dividends of the said ten thousand pounds, mentioned in our marriage settlement; then, and in such case, all the annuities, legacies, devises, and bequests to her, or for her benefit hereafter mentioned, shall become null and void, and the annuities herein given to her shall sink into, and become part of my estate. And from and after the decease of my wife, or from and after the determination, or forfeiture of her interest in the premises, as aforesaid, I direct my said trustees, and the survivors, or the heirs, executors, or administrators of the survivor, to sell, dispose of, and convey my said houses, gardens, and land at Hampton and the Adelphi, with their respective appurtenances, pictures, household-goods, and furniture, herein before given (except the statue of Shakespeare) by public or private sale, as they shall think proper, for the best price that can reasonably be got for the same, and turn the same into money

money upon the trusts, and for the purposes herein after mentioned. I give and devise all that messuage and garden, now occupied by, and in possession of my nephew David Garrick, at Hampton, and all the furniture therein, and all other my messuages, farms, and lands in the parish of Hampton (except those given to or for the use of my wife) unto and to the use of my said nephew David Garrick, his heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns. I give and devise all that my manor of Hendon, and all other my manors, messuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, with their and every of their rights, royalties, members, and appurtenances, unto the said Charles Lord Camden, Richard Rigby, John Paterfon, and Albany Wallis, and the survivors or survivor of them, and the heirs of such survivor, in trust to sell, dispose of, and convey the same, together or in parcels, by public or private, or in one or more sale or sales, and the clear money arising from such sale or sales, as the same shall be received, after defraying the expences attending such sales, to place out upon government or real security at interest in their names, in trust, and for the purposes hereafter mentioned. I give and bequeath the statue of Shakespeare (after my wife's death) and all my collection of old English plays, to the trustees of the British Museum, for the time being, for the use of the public. I give all the rest of my books, of what kind soever (except such as my wife shall chuse, to the value of one hundred pounds, which I give and bequeath to her) unto my nephew Carrington Garrick, for his
own

own use. I give the houses in Drury-lane, which I bought of the fund for decayed actors of the theatre there, back again to the fund. I give and bequeath all the rest of my personal estate whatsoever, not specifically given to the said Charles Lord Camden, Richard Rigby, John Paterfon, and Albany Wallis, their executors, administrators, and assigns, in trust to be by them with all convenient speed sold and disposed of to the best advantage, and out of the money to arise therefrom, and any other money or personal estate, in the first place to pay the said legacies of one thousand pounds, and five thousand pounds to my wife, and the residue to be placed in their names in government or real security at interest upon trust, that they the said trustees, and the survivors and survivor of them, and the executors, administrators, and assigns, of each survivor shall, and do, out of the dividends, interest, profits, and proceed thereof, or a competent part thereof, to, from time to time, pay or cause to be paid my wife, Eva Maria Garrick, the said annuity of fifteen hundred pounds, herein before given to her during her natural life as aforesaid; and for that purpose I direct that part of my personal estate, and of the money to arise from the sale of my real estates, and the securities on which the same shall be vested shall be set apart, sufficient for the interest thereof to pay the annuities of fifteen hundred pounds, or one thousand pounds, as the case may happen to my wife, during her life as aforesaid; and in case any such securities so set apart for the purposes aforesaid, shall fail or prove deficient,

I direct

I direct others to be appropriated to make good the same, so as that the said annuities and provision may be fully and punctually paid to my wife, in preference to every other legacy, payment, or bequest whatsoever. And, I give to my brother George Garrick, the sum of ten thousand pounds. To my brother Peter Garrick, the sum of three thousand pounds. To my nephew Carington Garrick, the sum of six thousand pounds. To my nephew David Garrick, the sum of five thousand pounds, besides what I agreed to give him on his marriage. I direct my executors and trustees to stand possessed of six thousand pounds, part of my personal estate, in trust for my niece Arabella Schaw, wife of Captain Schaw, and to pay and dispose thereof, in such manner as my niece Arabella Schaw shall (notwithstanding her present coverture, by writing, signed by her in the presence of two credible witnesses) direct or appoint: and in default of such direction or appointment, to pay one moiety thereof to her personal representatives, the other moiety to become a part of my personal estate. I give to my niece Catherine Garrick, the sum of six thousand pounds, to be paid to her at the age of twenty-one years, or day of marriage, with interest, at the rate of four *per cent. per annum*. I give to my sister Merial Doxey, the sum of three thousand pounds. I give to my wife's niece, who is now with us at Hampton, the sum of one thousand pounds. All which legacies I direct shall be paid by my executors, out of the residue of my personal estate, which shall remain after paying the legacies to my wife, and securing

ing

ing the annuities as aforesaid : and if there shall not be sufficient to answer and pay all the said last mentioned legacies, the legatees shall abate in proportion to their legacies, and wait until the death of my wife, when the money arising by the sale of Hampton and the fund, for payment of the annuities, will be at liberty, and become part of my personal estate, to answer and pay the said legacies in full, provided always that, if any one or two of my trustees shall die before the several trusts hereby in them reposed, shall be fully and compleatly executed and finished ; then, and in such case, the survivors and survivor of them shall, in convenient time, assign, transfer, and convey such of the estates, stocks, funds, and other securities, as shall then remain undisposed of for the purposes aforesaid, so as the same may be vested in the survivors or survivor ; and as often as any of the said trustees shall die, a new one shall be named to be joined with the survivors, so as that the number may be kept filled up ; and all such new trustees shall stand possessed of the estates, stocks, funds, and securities, jointly with the survivors, to the same uses, and upon the same trusts, intents, and purposes, herein before declared and appointed : provided also, that it shall be lawful for my said trustees and every of them, and all future trustee and trustees, in the first place, to retain to themselves out of the trust estates, from time to time, all such costs, charges, and expences, as they or any of them shall respectively be put unto, or sustain in the trust hereby in them respectively reposed ; and that none of
them,

them, or any future trustee or trustees, shall be answerable for the other or others of them, or more than he himself shall actually receive, or wilfully lose or destroy; and in case, after the payment of all the said legacies, bequests, and expences, there shall remain any surplus money, or personal estate, I direct the same to be divided amongst my next of kin, as if I had died intestate; and I nominate and appoint the said Charles Lord Camden, Richard Rigby, John Paterfon, and Albany Wallis, to be executors of this my will, which I declare to be my last will and testament, hereby revoking all former and other wills by me at any time heretofore made. In witness whereof, I the said David Garrick, have to two parts of this my will, contained in seven sheets of paper, set my hand to each of the said sheets, and my seal to the first and last sheets, this twenty-fourth day of September, one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight.

DAVID GARRICK. (L. S.)



F I N I S.

